

CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT

2017 Annual General Meeting of The Arabian Horse Society of Australia Ltd.

The Championships last year was a very successful event. It was run by North American Alliance. The event itself saw some changes to the judging system. The Gold, Silver and Bronze awards for the Purebred Halter classes and the 3 judge system for the open ridden. The inclusion of open hack classes, as well as the Stars of the Future Show held in conjunction with many other events ran over the period of the show. The aim was to create a lifestyle event in which could involve people from many walks of life to see and enjoy our beautiful horses on show. The objective being to grow the event.

Whilst the whole event was a resounding success, it also became clear that a show of this calibre was unable to be sustained by entry fees alone. A huge cost to the Society would have been eminent if we were not able to gather the financial backing needed to fund this event.

The format for the 2017 show was reviewed and downsized for this year, for two reasons, financial and to make the show more competitive. The Board realised it was not able to run the show itself, so a small team of people was appointed to organise the show with the Board overseeing all decisions.

The Championships aim is to show case our wonderful horses. An event of this type comes at a cost. Venue fees are increasing and associated costs are increasing all the time. Besides sponsorship and fund raising the event must pay for itself to sustain a future. Hence a small rise in entry fees. Sponsorship and fundraising ensure the provision of some of the finer touches that have become synonymous with the show. As you are aware sponsorship is becoming increasingly hard to secure as globally everyone are having their purse strings tightened.

For the individuals and businesses that have given ongoing support over the years the Board would like to THANKYOU. Without your generosity we may very well not have had a show to attend.

I trust that anyone who attended this years show has enjoyed themselves and caught up with friends old and new. Please remember there can only be one winner, let's make it the beautiful Arabian horse.

Clint Bilson

Australian Arabian National Championships Report

The 2016 Australian National Championships was held from 30 March to 03 April at Sydney International Equestrian Centre in Horsley Park, NSW. More than 330 horses attended the five-day event, during which 166 National Championships were awarded.

The expanded programme included evening finals from Wednesday through Saturday, featuring marquee breeding & performance classes, as well as entertainment by Dan Steers of Double Dan Horsemanship, 'The Man from Snowy River' Tom Burlinson and television fan favourite Dr. Harry Cooper. Saturday & Sunday also featured an open stud book pony & coloured breeds show – Stars of the Southern Sky Equine Celebration, as well as a local artisan market, a classic car show and equine agility demonstrations. For the first time ever at an Australian National Championships, a panel of five judges – three international and two Australian – adjudicated ALL Arabian & Arabian Derivative breeding classes. Another first was the introduction of the ridden scorecard for all purebred ridden championships, adjudicated with the full performance panel of three judges. Several high profile international sponsors provided financial support for the show.

The 2016 AANC was a success on many levels and realized a small profit of just under \$20,000 AUD.

The 2017 AANC is well under way, scheduled for the more traditional time frame of 16-18 March again at Sydney International Equestrian Centre. The revised programme will offer 81 National Championships across 3 days of competition, adjudicated by a team of four halter judges – two international & two Australian, as well as a team of three performance judges. For the first time, ALL halter/breeding entries in every division – open, youth & non-pro - will be adjudicated using the Arabian or Arabian Derivative scorecard by the full panel of four judges, as will all ridden classes in each breed by adjudicated using the ridden scorecard assessed by the full panel of three judges. Evening finals will again be offered on Friday & Saturday evenings. Nearly 270 horses and 200 exhibitors/owners are entered for the 2017 event. Fundraising, especially in the online auction, has been successful once again.

Respectfully Submitted

Scott Benjamin
Event Coordinator 2016 & 2017 AANC