

BEIRUT HORSE RACING MUST GO ON!

by **Monika Savier**

Photographies: **Mohamad Azakir**

Layout: **Mario Brunetti**

Why is it so difficult to raise funds and acquire donations for the survival of the Beirut Racecourse and the Arabian race horses?

In the spring of 2021, after the explosion in Beirut harbor, we set out to initiate a donation campaign – with international support by the *TUTTO ARABI* and *DESERT HERITAGE* magazines for Arabian horses – in support of the race horses that are at risk of dying, and of the people who work around them and are falling into ever deeper poverty. The racecourse in Beirut will soon have to close if races are coming to an end.

We thought that there are a lot of affluent breeders of Arabian horses, well off people with a love of animals, or prosperous stud owners out in the country who would not have much of a problem to donate quite a lot of money in order to be able to display their stud's banner in the show ring or in media coverage. We thought that these people love Arabian horses because of the animals themselves, not just because of the opportunity they provide to showcase.

Donors Needed!

The Situation for the Arabian Horses of Beirut is Near to a Catastrophe.
Is There still Hope for the Hippodrome?
How Can the Horses Survive?

by **Monika Savier**
Photographies: Monika Savier, Press Archive Beirut

CALL FOR SUPPORT FOR THE ARABIAN HORSES IN BEIRUT

“When on the edge, attitude is what counts”



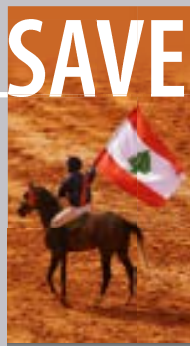
Yes, it's true that Lebanon as a state is living on the edge; it is also true that the amount of corruption and mismanagement among the political class causes desperation among the population that is hit by it; AND that the social networks of the Horse Industry are shocked by it as well. And still, what I hear from most when asked for a donation: who knows what will happen with my money? Maybe the racetrack cannot be saved anyway and the money will be lost?

Thankfully the 100-year-old racetrack, a multicultural arena that has always been a bridge during religious and ethnic conflicts, can be saved! The people and the horses who give their all to preserve the culture of racehorse breeding and riding, and to entertain the audience, they can be saved. The main thing is to keep the races going, as this will give the people active horse lovers living there a sense of purpose, and of joy in getting up early to train horses; they will have an aim, something to live for which even guarantees a small income.

For all these reasons, it does not matter whether the 200 or so horses that are still on the racetrack and being trained are WAHO Arabians or “Lebanon Arabians” or even Anglo-Arabians. It is about preserving a culture, indeed a tradition that is 2000 years old in Lebanon, and where all the protagonists are equally important, including all the people around them.

Each and every cent donated up to now was used directly for racing, as this report about the first racing day of the year makes clear. At last, general manager Nabil Nasrallah was able to pay for the jockeys' accident insurance. Even if the present donations did not amount to a lot of money, this sum was enough to raise hopes for better times. What is needed for the better times to become reality is more donations and support. If there was a racing day at least once a month, providing prize money from out of a pool of donations, that would be a tremendous success for everybody. And a tremendous opportunity for the Horse Industry to show their social colors, to extend their hand to horses and humans in the midst of crisis – for as the adage goes: “When on the edge, attitude is what counts”.

SAVE THE ARABIAN RACE HORSES OF LEBANON



Here are the special bank account details:

SPARCA

BANQUE LIBANO-FRANÇAISE S.A.L.

Iban: LB42 0010 0000 0017 8654 2300 1840

Swift: BLFSLBBX - Currency: USD

Purpose: Donation

HOW TO DONATE

Attached here is the form with all the sponsoring details and the special visibility you will have with your support, in addition to the bank details for donations.

Every single money transfer counts. You can donate any amount, even a small one starting from 50\$, or you can donate a race for 1000\$ or even a race day with 5 to 6 races (5000\$).

Helping is a win-win situation for both sides, as taking action with a donation directly translates into hope for the racehorses in Beirut, while at the same time creating visibility for your own stud or business.

SPONSORSHIP PROPOSITIONS

fundraising@sparca.com

SPONSORSHIP TYPE	AMOUNT	RETURNS TO SPONSOR	BENEFITS OF YOUR GENEROSITY
DONATION	STARTING \$ 50	ORIGINAL PHOTO OF THE RACECOURSE	By donating, you will be helping the historical Beirut Racecourse to remain open and allowing WAHO and Lebanese Arabian horses to continue flourishing
A RACE (SILVER)	\$ 1000	- Race Title Naming - Trophy Featuring sponsor name/logo - Sponsor name /logo featured on the website and Local Media exposure - Original Photo of the winner with the trophy	By Sponsoring a race, you will generate enthusiasm between all actors of the race: the breeder, the owner, the trainer, the jockey and the lad who will get a higher prize money and a trophy, as well drawing public and supporting the funding of racing through the official betting system.
A RACE DAY (GOLD) 5 TO 6 RACES	\$ 5000	- Race Title Naming - Trophy Featuring sponsor name/logo - Sponsor name /logo featured on the website and Local Media exposure - Backdrop featuring the Sponsor name/logo - Original Photo of the winners with the trophies	By Sponsoring a Race Day, you will generate enthusiasm between all actors of the races on that date: breeders, owners, trainers, jockeys and lads who will get a higher prize money and a trophy, as well drawing public and supporting the funding of racing through the official betting system.
CHAMPIONS MAKING SPONSORING YEARLINGS	\$ 200/MONTH 6 months in advance min 18 months	- Selecting the Horse and Naming the Sponsor - Monthly progress report with picture and training video - Racing under own colours - Access to the stable, to training and to racing in VIP lounge - 30% of prize money (the remaining: 40% breeder, 30% SPARCA)	By Sponsoring a Yearling you support two families and secure a horse's breed. Selecting your favourite between some 20 horses from different studs and pedigrees, financing his needs: livery, training costs, vet & farrier bills over at least 18 months within a monthly budget of 200\$ you will thus grant a professional training to the horse, open a real chance of survival of the Lebanese Arabian breed and help support the families of the breeder and all those involved with the care and training of your horse. (trainer, grooms, vets, farriers, racecourse employees...)

CONTACT

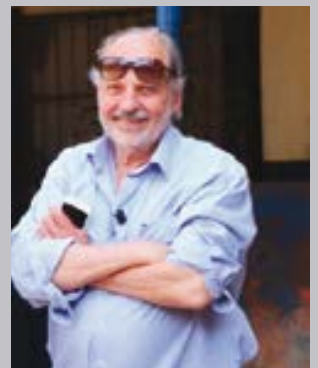
NABIL NASRALLAH, General Manager SPARCA - Po.Box 116/5518 Tel: +961 1 664200 +961 1 664302 - Mob: +961 3 377310 - Email: sparca.leb@gmail.com

A RACE DAY GIVES A STRONG SIGN OF HOPE FOR 2022

The Hippodrome du Parc de Beyrouth did breathe again! It was a strong sign of hope for us when on January 9th, 2022, five ladies from Switzerland, Italy, Belgium and Germany, all of them passionate about Arabian horses, took the initiative of sponsoring a whole race day. The event was brilliantly successful, and the real success was seen in the eyes of horse owners, breeders, horse trainers and jockeys, as this initiative revived in them the hope of a better tomorrow, better days for the Arabian Horses in Lebanon and everyone related to that world.

The fact there are still people who care, people that would take action, people that won't accept the defeat, people that will strive to make a difference, this was the real success of that day.

We shall not stop, as what started as an initiative became an oxygen line everyone around the Arabian Horse in Lebanon is holding on to. If just five supporters together managed, with their contributions, to draw infinite smiles, and rebuild confidence in the hearts and minds of so many people that were about to lose hope, we are sure there are many more Arabian Horse lovers out there that realize how serious our situation is. We very much hope they will not hesitate to keep that oxygen line flowing strongly - making contributions of their own, making it possible for those horses to keep running. With all our gratitude



Nabil Nasrallah

General Manager of the Hippodrome du Parc de Beyrouth



“It was my pleasure to step in my father’s place as the owner of two winners in this magnificent racing day: SHADEN ridden by ADNAN in the first race, and FARAH EL EID also ridden by Adnan in the fifth race. Both 4-year-old grey horses were trained by Marwan Dabbour, they both were the champions of their respective races, and are regarded as future sires. The joy of horse racing is something I have been exposed to since I was a child. It was a wonderful and exhilarating feeling to witness my horses at the starting gate and then see them racing till the finish line. My thanks go to all the people who made these sponsored reopening races possible, who offered us substantial prize money and trophies at a time when the racetrack is running a big risk to have to close down. They gave us a profound hope of continuity. For me, it was very important that in this case, it was women who got involved out of their passion for horses and horse racing, a sport which is still defined as masculine in our country.

Thank you, all you Ladies, for your support and contribution to the continuity of the Arabian Horse Breeding and Racing in Lebanon. We need many more to follow your example and support the Beirut Hippodrome.”



Sara Elias Zahras
Owner, Beirut

“It was a great feeling to know that there are still people who care about this beautiful sport that gives me the incentive to wake up every morning at 4.00 am to do my job, especially when our country Lebanon is passing through a very hard economic crisis. I wish to express my deepest thanks to the passionate donors hoping to see many more events like this one held at our Beirut Hippodrome at the beginning of the year 2022.”

Marwan Dabbour, Trainer

“Support for the race track is essential to us, as without it, we cannot nourish our future plans or maintain our horse heritage - or even less, develop it on.

Our Hippodrome is our responsibility, it is our legacy and in it all ages are involved. For us, our Beirut Race Track is the true basis for this sport. We would love to see breeders and fans of Arabian horses from all over the world uniting in their quest to support the horses that are “Born to Run”.

Ali Ftouni, Fan, Beirut

Dear World,

Over the past 2 years, Lebanon has faced many problems such as the economic and financial crisis, the Beirut port blast, and the Corona pandemic. These issues influenced all private and public sectors. Businesses, social events, and sports activities are shutting down one after the other. Faced with such problems, the Hippodrome of Beirut found itself struggling, unable to survive without sponsoring and external assistance. Which is why we want to say thank you for the enormous effort that was invested in the “Ladies taking Action” event.

This sponsored first racing day in 2022 has been a boost to us, inspiring a spirit of survival to the Arabian horse lovers as well as to all the neighborhoods. Finally, we were able to revive and open the 2022 horse racing season.

This approach motivated the sense of continuity. Jockeys took care of their fitness; horses were well trained to start a good challenging opening season 2022. The results as well as the rewards were highly appreciated. We hope that this event will shed light on a new hope for the continuity of the Arabian horse line now at risk.

It can be saved, but we need many people from all over the world to support us.



Sami Wardy
Breeder, Beirut



RACE 1

AL JABAL ARABIANS / SWITZERLAND

Sponsored by Mrs. MAYA JONES

FROM EUROPE
**LADIES
TAKING
ACTION!**



For Ponies winner 1-2 Races, 4 YO
Weight 52 kg Allowance 1.5 kg for mares
Distance 1400m
Prizemoney 8 Mio LP

Owner	No Horse	Specs	Pp	Jockey	Trainer	St Performance
Elias Zahra	101 Amir El Chimal	Ag4mp2	54.0		M. Dabbour	01 (21):136/1-133/4-91/1-72/3
Elias Zahra	102 Shaden	Ag4mp2	54.0		M. Dabbour	04 (21):126/1-125/3-79/1
Abdou Sweidan	103 Kamar El Dar	Ag4mp1	52.0		M. Kheireddin	05 (21):145/1-127/0-79/0-72/4
Elias Zahra	104 Ya Gharami	Aa4mp1	52.0		M. Dabbour	03 (21):136/3-126/4-119/3-81/1
Tony El Frenn	105 Oletchka	Ab4fp1	50.5		F. Taleb	02 (21):145/3-126/2-119/2-102/2



General				
Ar	No	Horse*	Start	Color
1	102	Shaden	04	
2	101	Amir El Chimal	01	
3	105	Oletchka	02	



**LADIES
TAKING
ACTION!**

"I hope other breeders and Arabian horse enthusiasts will follow and support the racetrack in Beirut."

MAYA JONES

CEO of **AL JABAL ARABIANS** in Switzerland, is a long term lover and breeder of Straight Egyptian Arabians. She is strongly supporting initiatives to sustain the Arabian Horse worldwide. May the future of the Arabian Horse in Lebanon and the racetrack in Beirut be ensured.



Winner **SHADEN**
Nabil Nasrallah, Marwan Dabbour, Nabil de Freige, Adnan

Race	Specs***				Weight**		People			Odds
	R	A	S	W	EW	Jockey	Trainer	Owner		
g	4	m	2	54.0	Adnan	M. Dabbour	Elias Zahra	1.10		
g	4	m	2	54.0	Ala'	M. Dabbour	Elias Zahra	99.-		
b	4	f	1	49.5	Wadh (A)	F. Taleb	Tony El Frenn	14.-		



RACE 2

TRE BALZANE STU D / ITALY

Sponsored by Mrs. ELISABETH AUER

FROM EUROPE
**LADIES
TAKING
ACTION!**

**TRE BALZANE
STU D**

For 4 YO Maiden
Weight 54 kg Allowance 1.5 kg for mares
Distance 1000m
Prizemoney 8 Mio LP

Owner	No Horse	Specs	Pp	Jockey	Trainer	St	Performance
Michel Pharaon	201 Jabal	Aa4m	54.0		M. Ali	03	(21):142/4-88/4-71/2-66/4
Antoine Nasr	202 Zilzal	Ag4m	54.0		M. Kheireddin	06	(21):111/2-103/TO-96/0-81/0
Moufid Dabaghi	203 Saher	Ag4m	54.0		A. Hussein	01	(21):103/3
Ec. De Freige	204 Ghaddar	Ag4m	54.0		M. Kheireddin	05	(21):142/2-137/2-121/2-117/0
Elias Zahra	205 Zaman	Aa4fc	52.5		M. Dabbour	02	(21):137/3-121/4-111/3-71/4
Michel Pharaon	206 Nour El Ou'youn	Ag4fc	52.5		M. Ali	04	(21):142/3-82/TO-71/3



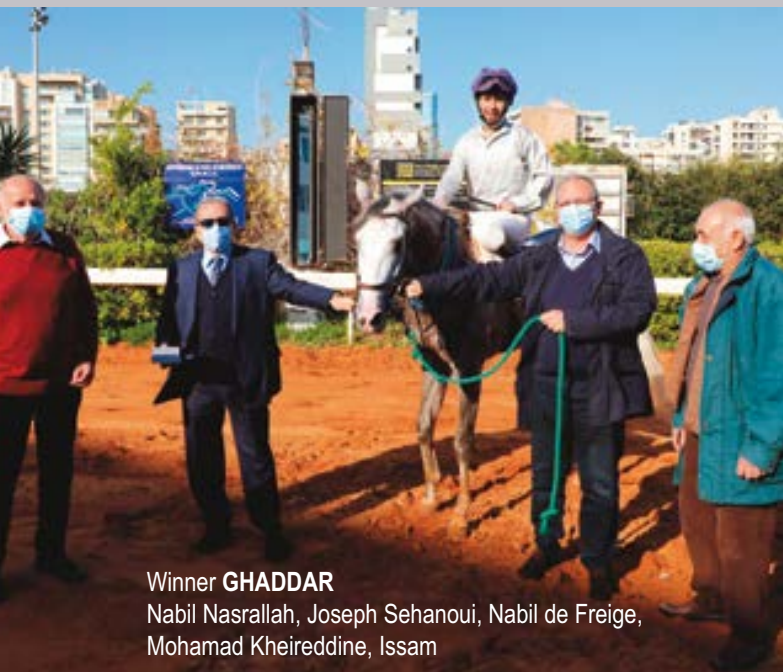
General				
Ar	No	Horse*	Start	Color
1	204	Ghaddar	05	
2	203	Saher	01	
3	202	Zilzal	06	



“In 1972, when coming from Syria, I had the opportunity to travel to Lebanon. I got to know a great country and warm people. Through my work with Arabian horses, I am still in contact with Lebanon and it hurts to see what has become of this beautiful country. My support for the racecourse in Beirut is a small gesture of thanks for the great hospitality I experienced there.”

ELISABETH AUER

born in Austria, is Stud Manager of Tre Balzane. She is a highly experienced horse trainer and equine physiotherapist. At the centre of her thoughts is the HORSE, not only as a sports-oriented creature to be trained and bred, but above all as an individual to be taken care of with high levels of professionalism as well as suitable and innovative methods.



Winner **GHADDAR**
Nabil Nasrallah, Joseph Sehanoui, Nabil de Freige,
Mohamad Kheireddine, Issam

R	Specs™			Weight™	People			Odds
	A	S	W		Jockey	Trainer	Owner	
g	4	m		54.0	Issam	M. Kheireddine	Ec. De Freige	2.20
g	4	m		54.0	Imad (A)	A. Hussein	Moufid Dabaghi	3.-
g	4	m		54.0	Mouhannad	M. Kheireddine	Antoine Nasr	2.-



RACE 3

EL LA DIVA ARABIAN STUD / BELGIUM

Sponsored by Mrs. SABINE LENS

FROM EUROPE
**LADIES
TAKING
ACTION!**



For Ponies Maiden, 4 YO
Weight 54kg / 4 YO and 56 older Allowance 1.5 kg for mares
Distance 1400m
Prizemoney 8 Mio LP

Owner	No	Horse	Specs	Pp	Jockey	Trainer	St	Performance
H. & J. Abou Zaid	301	Habibet Jad	Aa5fp	56.5		F. Taleb	05	(21):53/4-38/S-22/0-16/3
Camille Karam	302	Baroud	Ab4mp	54.0		M. Hawa	02	(21):143/2-127/3-122/2-116/2
Abdou Sweidan	303	Kinz	Ag4mp	54.0		M. Kheireddine	01	(21):143/3-122/3-112/2-79/0
Sa'adeddine Chatila	304	Baklawa	Aa4fp	52.5		F. Adam	03	(21):140/S-127/4-116/S-107/0
Elias Zahra	305	Raghad	Ag4fp	52.5		M. Dabbour	04	(21):107/4-101/4
Antoine Nasr	306	Comtesa	Aa4fp	52.5		M. Kheireddine	07	(21):136/0
Moufid Dabaghi	307	Mayss	Ab4fp	52.5		A. Hussein	06	(21):140/3-134/2-92/3



General				Specs™				Weight™	People			
Ar	No	Horse*	Start	Color	R	A	S	W	EW	Jockey	Trainer	Owner
1	304	Baklawa	03		a	4	f		51.5	Wadih (A)	F. Adam	Sa'adeddine Chatila
2	302	Baroud	02		b	4	m		54.0	Mouhannad	M. Hawa	Camille Karam
3	305	Raghad	04		g	4	f		53.0	Ala'	M. Dabbour	Elias Zahra



“We are happy we found a way to support the future of the Arabian Horses in Beirut and of all the people involved! I hope we can inspire even more people to engage in the support that is necessary for the survival of the Beirut Racecourse and the Arabian race horses, and also of the people who work there.”

SABINE LENS

El Ladiva Farm in Belgium, of Paul Lamers and Sabine Lens, was founded no less than 30 years ago. They two of them have always wanted to live and work with Straight Egyptians, and they kept to this credo highly successfully, on the occasion of shows as well as in daily training and in their breeding work. Both of them know about working hard to finance their stud, and when there was the opportunity for Sabine Lens to sponsor a race in the Beirut Hippodrome together with other lady breeders, she did not hesitate even for a moment.



Winner **BAKLAWA**
Farouk Adam, Saadeddine Chatila, Wadih



RACE 4

GRAND PRIX NEW YEAR 2022

KATHARINENHOF'S NK ARABIANS STUDB / GERMANY
Sponsored by Mrs. NAWAL MAALOUF NAGEL

FROM EUROPE
LADIES
TAKING
ACTION!

KATHARINENHOF'S
NK ARABIANS

For Winner 1-3 Races, 4 YO

Weight 52 kg. +Penalty, Allowance 1.5 kg for mares

Distance 1600m

Prizemoney 12 Mio LP

Owner	No Horse	Specs	Pp	Jockey	Trainer	St	Performance
Hussein Hammoud	401 Al Amir	Ag4m3	56.0	_____	F. Adam	01	(21):130/1-117/1-113/2-66/1
Michel Pharaon	402 Al Sultan	Aa4mc2	54.0	_____	M. Ali	05	(21):133/2-130/2-106/1-61/1
Michel Pharaon	403 Senior	Ag4m2	54.0	_____	M. Ali	06	(21):130/3-113/1-41/1
Moufid Dabaghi	404 Tayyeb	Ag4m2	54.0	_____	A. Hussein	02	(21):133/1-125/2-82/1-47/4
Ec. De Freige	405 Khoch Boch	Ag4m1	52.0	_____	M. Kheireddine	03	(21):142/1-117/3-51/S
Tony El Frenn	406 Habibet Marwan	Aa4f1	50.5	_____	F. Taleb	04	(21):117/4-106/4-96/1-88/2



General				Specs**				Weight**	People				
Ar	No	Horse*	Start	Color	R	A	S	W	EW	Jockey	Trainer	Owner	Odds
1	401	Al Amir	01		g	4	m	3	56.0	Wadih (A)	F. Adam	Hussein Hammoud	1.10
2	405	Khoch Boch	03		g	4	m	1	53.0	Issam	M. Kheireddine	Ec. De Freige	34.-
3	403	Senior	06		g	4	m	2	54.0	Badr	M. Ali	Michel Pharaon	6.-



Winner **AL AMIR**
Hussein Hammoud, Farouk Adam, Wadih



LADIES TAKING ACTION!

“As I was born in Beirut, I recall the good times in Lebanon and of course the well-known great horse races at the Hippodrome in these years.

It’s my pleasure to support these spectacular events with their beautiful Arabian Horses to help them survive the difficult times they face at present.”

NAWAL MAALOUF NAGEL

has accompanied and supported her husband, Dr. Hans Nagel, in the breeding and development of the "NK Straight Egyptians" at Katharinenhof in Germany for over 40 years. In the past, some successful racehorses were also born at Katharinenhof and the fate of the horses on the racetrack in Beirut has inspired the whole family.



RACE 5

TRE BALZANE STUD II / ITALY

Sponsored by Mrs. MONIKA SAVIER

LADIES
TAKING
ACTION

TRE BALZANE
STUD

For Ponies Winner 1-2 Races, 5+ YO

Weight 52 kg, +Penalty, Allowance 1.5 kg for mares

Distance 1000m

Prizemoney 8 Mio LP

Owner	No Horse	Specs	Pp	Jockey	Trainer	St	Performance
Hussein Hammoud	501 Amir Beyrouth	Aa5mp2	54.0	_____	F. Adam	05	(21):141/2-131/4-129/2-115/2
Elias Zahra	502 Farah El Eid	Ag5mp2	54.0	_____	M. Dabbour	01	(21):123/2-118/2-84/S-77/1
Moufid Dabaghi	503 Amir El Tarab	Ag5mp1	52.0	_____	A. Hussein	03	(21):139/4-118/4-45/0-37/4
Antoine Sabat	504 Nawass	Ag5mp1	52.0	_____	C. Kachou	04	(21):143/1-140/4-105/S-63/S
Antoine Nasr	505 Al Amira Sara	Ag5fp1	50.5	_____	M. Kheireddine	02	(21):141/3-138/2-109/0-94/2



Winner **FARAH EL EID**
Nabil Nasrallah, Joseph Sehanoui, Marwan Dabbour, Sara Elias Zahra, Adnan





**LADIES
TAKING
ACTION!**

MONIKA SAVIER

is both a breeder of Arabian horses and owner of Tre Balzane Stud in Italy and a prolific staff writer of Desert Heritage Magazine on many topics associated with the history and breeding practices surrounding this particular horse which is renowned for its beauty and its strength. Not only is she interested in recording and preserving what we might call the 'social world of the Arabian horse', she also stresses the importance of developing perspectives which recognize and respect the 'soul' of the Arabian horse, and she points to the ways in which strong ethical values can be promoted in the shared living space of human and animal. These issues take on special importance with globalization, and with the expansion of breeding possibilities made available through science and risks of new technologies. Likewise Savier is concerned with the kind of environment that is provided so that these horses can lead a full existence, not only shaped by immediate human needs. (Prof. Angela McRobbie, University of London)

General				Spec TM				Weight TM		People			
Ar	No	Horse TM	Start	Color	H	A	S	W	EW	Jockey	Trainer	Owner	Odds
1	802	Farah El Sitt	01		g	5	m	2	54.0	Adnan	M. Dabbour	Eilat Zahra	
2	801	Amr Basmah	05		a	5	m	2	F 53.0	Wadhi (A)	F. Adam	Hussein Hammoud	1.90
3	805	Amr El Tarab	05		g	5	m	1	52.0	Astmar	A. Hussein	Moufid Dabagh	5.50

