

Tëam Tëkë Tätk!



Tëam Tëkë Issue 3

Welcome to Issue 3 of *Tèam Tèkè Tàtk*

We have a slant towards long-distance riding in this issue, with a leading Endurance rider recalling her competitive year, reflections from a pilgrim route, and the account of an epic journey in Mongolia.

It's been a year of ups and downs. We had some excellent publicity for the Akhal-Teke in Horse Deals, and a good turnout with a very enjoyable day at the Vale of Evesham Show (see inside for more on both). But other events fell prey to the recession, including the Arab-Trakehner Event at Moreton Morrell, cancelled due to lack of entries.

With fuel forecast to be £2 a litre by the summer, we are standing by to see nearer the date what we will do with our regular slot at Evesham. We do, however, have invitations to take part in the Rare/Foreign Breeds classes at the Derbyshire County Show. Meanwhile we are planning events which you/your horse would be able to participate in without having to travel. Details will be sent out later.

If you know of anyone who would be interested in receiving our newsletters, and maybe attending some of our events, please let us know - thank you. Also, we would love to post your news on the website. If you have been out competing, doing a pleasure ride, have a new foal or have any other news, please email gill@gillsuttle.co.uk.

Best wishes from the Team, and good luck for this year.

www.team-teke.co.uk



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What's On!

Saturday February 26th 2011

NEW YEAR PUB GET TOGETHER

12.30 pm onwards

The Racehorse, 32/34 Stratford Rd., Warwick, CV34 6AS.

Sunday 26th June 2011

DERBY COUNTY SHOW

This has classes for rare/foreign breeds, and we are invited to enter pure-breds. Schedules from Emma Rushton end March/beginning April. Large SAE with large stamp to 50, Spencer Ave., Sandiacre, Nottingham, NG10 5DA, marked DAHS, or email emma.rushton@ntlworld.com.

See www.derbyshirecountyshow.org.uk, classes 217, 218, 219 (ridden and in-hand). Entries close Friday 20th May.

Sunday 11th September 2011

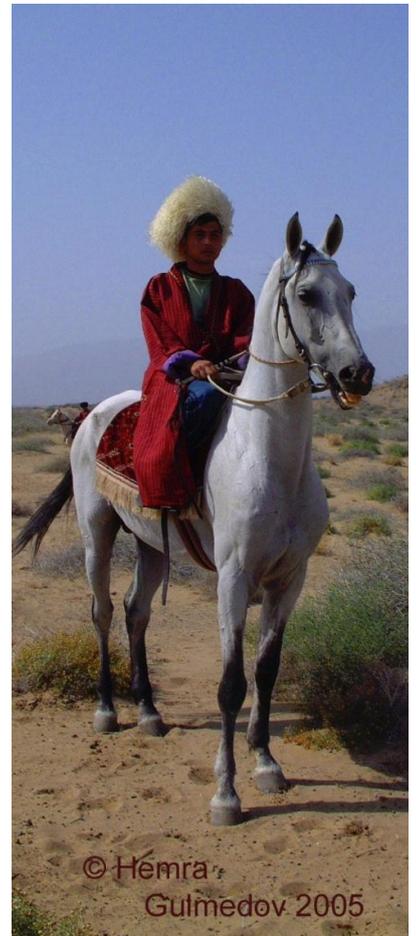
VALE OF EVESHAM AUTUMN SHOW

We are again invited to take a ring. Definite plans for it will be made nearer the time.

!Stop Press!

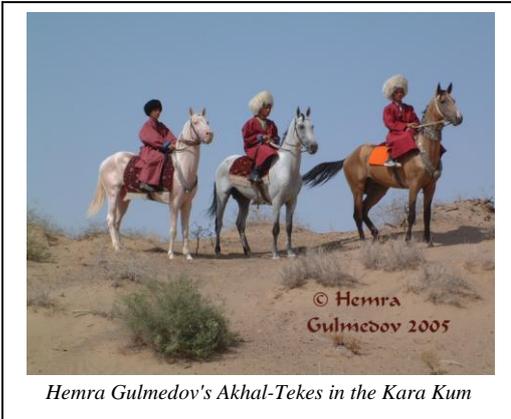
PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

We have just got sponsorship for a photographic competition - details to come in a mailing next month.



REPORTS 2010

Horse Deals Article



The leading magazine HORSE DEALS gave us some wonderful publicity by allowing us a full 1,500-word article in their May 2010 issue. It covered the breed from three thousand years ago to the present day, and was illustrated by Hemra Gulmedov's superb photographs from Turkmenistan, as well as pictures of current Akhal-Teke sport horses.

To read the article, please go to www.team-teke.co.uk.

Sport Arabian – Trakehner Performance Event

Sadly, this had to be cancelled due to lack of entries. We understand that it will not run this year.

Vale of Evesham Show, 12th September 2010

Seven pure- and part-bred Tekes were assembled by five owners and paraded in family groups. First came the youngstock: the part-Arab palomino Midoak Magic Icon (Monty), bred by David Webb and owned by Beth Dee, who produced him beautifully - no mean feat given the volume of his white mane and tail. He was followed by the two-year-old Djargalan, shown by Jayne Lapping.

Full brother and sister Tedzhen and Ainur were next, causing surprise by the discrepancy between their size and type. This was nothing to the next group - Ainur again, with her two part-bred foals Firyuza (14.1hh and very petite) and Kyzyl Moonraker (16.3 hh and still growing). Fizz was shown by her owner Jackie Richardson, and Mac by his owner Lizzie Nicholl, who produced him in a condition to outshine the pure-breds!

Finally came Annette Hansford's yearling Yoldash, by Darya Hannigan's stallion Dominik (pure-bred winner at last year's Team Teke Show). Winner of First Premiums at BEF Futurity events last year and this, Dash was shown by Neil Richardson.

Handlers were dressed to reflect the horse's current activity - Showing turnout, Endurance gear (complete with map!) or Cross-Country colours. David Webb provided the commentary, with a brief introduction to the breed and then details of individual horses. Thanks to the arena party of Ann Nicholl and Mandy Dee for providing the fences to jump!

Beth Dee also showed Monty in the Part-Arab and Coloured classes, being placed in both.



A COMPETITOR'S YEAR

Former British and European Endurance Champion Jill Thomas describes a year in the life of an endurance rider

Having two horses in training for endurance is always a bit of a juggle for working out who goes where and does what. That also goes for training as well.

The season kicked off with Pompei (Pops) going up to the Forest of Dean and doing a 64km ride. The weather was to say the least cold but, that aside, he completed the distance in a good time with a low heart rate at the end. I never bother to grade; I am well aware that you can spend up to 30 minutes getting ready to vet at the finish of a ride but I prefer to get the heart rate below 64 and then present as quickly as possible.



Two weeks later Pops ridden by Katie Came-Johnson and Gidchi Shael ridden by Rebecca Gossan were taken to Camel Valley Ride to compete in a 32km ride. It seems strange that this is the one ride that I get the horses ready, help them to be loaded, then have to race off ahead in the car as I vet steward for the day. It was nice to hear the comments from people who didn't know they were actually mine and for the second year running Katie and Pops won the Best Turned Out award - there had been some serious competition between my two young riders as they were getting ready! Both horses did the ride easily and passed the final vetting.

I had already decided that I would like to take Pops to Golden Horseshoe to do the 160km two day class and I really needed another 64km event to top up his training. A quick look at the schedule book and we entered both Pops and Gidchi (who with Rebecca on board would both be trying this distance for the first time) in the St. Meubred's Ride. This turned

Jill & Gidchi Shael at Barbary Castle out to be a much tougher ride than I would have chosen for a first attempt at this distance: lots of pulling hills and testing going, then about two miles from the finish a huge open field that cried out for you to give them their heads and enjoy a gallop. This I had to say was enjoyed by all! Again both horses went through the vetting well and looked none the worse for what had been for Gidchi and Rebecca a real eye opener.

All too soon Horseshoe was upon us and Ian (my partner), Pops and I headed for Exford. The pre-ride vet check takes place on the Sunday; the whole atmosphere got to Pops and when we packed to go I think his manners had been left at home! It was a relief to pass the vetting as we could have been eliminated, he really was that bad. Pops was gelded very late and we have to treat him as though he were still a stallion. As long as we remember that, life is much easier for everyone; luckily the place that we stay at humour him and he is allowed to be turned out but not too close to anyone else. In the early morning mist of Monday, Ian and I took it in turns to walk a rather over keen 15hh pocket battleship around, and there were moments when I wondered about my sanity of tackling one of the toughest rides on the calendar with a horse that looked as if it had never had a rider on its back. Taking a deep breath, with Ian shovelling treats into him, I dived on board before I had a change of heart. The minute he felt me on top his whole attitude changed and he went into work mode, happy because now he was doing what he loves, work.....

The first 50km were fantastic. Pops coped with the climbs and the rough tracks and had settled into a lovely rhythm as we dropped down into the Lorna Doone Valley for the half way vetting. Quickly into the vets, I was very surprised to be asked to represent 10 minutes before we were due to go back out on course; this we duly did to be told he was lame! Spitting teeth at the unfairness of some vettings, but having to accept the decision, we hitched a lift back to the venue with Candy Cameron, whose horse was also eliminated.

With a super fit horse, who most definitely was not lame, we looked to see what we could do next. Okay: 160km British Championships at Cirencester. Also by not doing a F.E.I. ride we would be able to avoid a vet who appeared to have a problem with our super horse. Twice we have been eliminated and each time we have had a sound horse, he just has a different action, same vet.