

FAWKES AKHAL TEKE STUD

PENZANCE CORNWALL

Daytime 01736 719170 or 07764156385



SALIMRASHID

Palomino 15.3hh

Dam SINEKCHI Sire SHAOL

Line EVERDY-TELEKE

At stud for the 2010 season

Limited frozen semen available

www.eclipse-equestrian.com

No B@B this time - camping at the venue with portable show stables. The horse flies at Cirencester are notorious, so top of the packing list are the citronella candles and very strong fly repellent. This time our vetting went well. His behaviour was the complete opposite of Shoe and things were looking up. The first two loops went well with us sitting about 20 minutes behind the leading pair. We came into the next vet gate, presented in record time and got asked to represent; not in the least worried we duly did as requested only to find we were landed with the one vet we didn't want, and with a pulse of only 44 we were again eliminated for lameness. Giving myself an hour to cool off I then went to speak to the vet and find out what was going on. To cut a long, painful story short the vet has stated that if that is his action she will eliminate me each and every time she sees him. When asked what I could do I was told to retire him! Great! Not to be beaten we had him vetted to within an inch of his life. The Chiropractor and my farrier looked; *Pops with Ian about to start a ride* he has been off work since then both with shoes on and then with shoes off but the fact of the matter is he is not lame. It is his action; he has a slight flick on one hind leg. We will just have to check with ride organisers to see who they have vetting. Sad, but what else can I do?



Gidchi did her second 64km ride at Boconnoc in the most awful torrential rain. Again she sailed through and I then had to find a 80km ride. As she weaves when stressed I'd intended only to do rides where we didn't have to stay overnight, but as I would have liked to do Barbary Castle this would mean two days away, and I really didn't want to upset any other owners if she weaved. Then we were told that we could camp and corral at the venue. She is good with the electric fence so we bit the bullet and entered, especially as I thought there would only be about a dozen others there corralled. How wrong was I - there were over 80 on the first night and nearly 100 on the second. She was brilliant, did the whole ride but was eliminated after a really bad slip. She had actually put her pelvis out and required treatment upon her return home.

Once we had the all clear to start her again we entered Brentor. Again we stayed at the venue and she was corralled at the side of us. You have no idea how much noise a chomping horse can make in the middle of the night. We had entered a 64km class and things went well until we lost a front shoe; she carried on for 8 miles until we got to the halfway halt where the farrier met us and replaced it with a spare that my crew had. A friend had had a really bad fall and we had to ride around the air ambulance (almost under the rotor blades) while they were sorting her out. She was home that night battered and bruised but okay. We passed the vetting at the end and missed a grade one by a heart beat: not bad for someone who doesn't try to grade.

We rounded Gidchi's season off at Red Dragon doing an 80km class on the Saturday followed by a really tough 40km on the Sunday in what have to be the worst conditions I have ever ridden in: floods up to the horses bellies, rivers running down the road. She was brilliant. Although she was slightly lame on the Sunday at the final vetting, I am really chuffed with her. We also had to stable and she didn't weave - the stable doors are really high and she couldn't.

Roll on next season, only 12 weeks to our first ride.....



Maria Marquise Baverstock gives a picture of

AKHAL-TEKE STALLION MAKKA SHAEL TRAINING IN THE NETHERLANDS

In October 2010, a Russian rider Vitaly Andrukhovich and his Akhal-Teke stallion Makka Shael arrived at **Stal Sprengenhorst** to spend three months with Rien and Inge Van Der Schaft at their dressage training facility in Apeldoorn, Netherlands. Towards the end of their stay, the verdict from the trainers - some of the most respected in Europe - was: "We need two more years for you to reach the Olympic standard."

Is Makka-Andrukhovich combination a short-lived sensation in the Akhal-Teke breed or are they setting a standard to which this legendary breed should aspire?



“Any serious project with Akhal-Teke horses is only possible at the top professional level”, says the breeder of Makka Shael, Leonid Babaev. “At any other level, our breed is too complicated, too hot, too limited in numbers and all too often of insufficient quality. I see dressage as the only sport in which the Akhal-Teke can compete against modern sports horse breeds. I have made it my goal to produce the Akhal-Teke against the highest possible parameters: presence, elasticity of gaits, elegance, power and harmony. I am convinced that we can 'put on the conveyor belt' horses fit for top-level dressage.”

“What is your impression of this breed”, I ask Inge van der Shaft at the end of one training session.

“This is the first Akhal-Teke I have met, so I cannot draw any conclusions about this breed. But I can say that this one is a very good horse”.

What do the Dutch see in him?

“Exceptional intelligence. And a fabulous walk – this horse really walks ‘for nine’.”

“Does your Akhal-Teke have the same walk?” asks Rien van der Shaft, an Akhal-Teke owner in Holland who came to watch Makka in training. “No”, she says modestly, “I am afraid I can’t say that mine has as good a walk as Makka”.

The Akhal-Teke breed is plagued by myths. The two most enduring ones are those of the dressage stallion Absent who “conquered Rome” at the 1960 Olympic Games and of the 1935 ride from Ashkhabad to Moscow, 4000km in 84 days, the ultimate feat of endurance. The obvious contrast between Olympic dressage and this gruelling trek is one of the defining characteristics of the Akhal-Teke breed: its versatility, a nebulous concept which fuels the breeders’ debate:

Should we select the Akhal-Teke for specific qualities required for a particular discipline, or will this lead us down the utilitarian road of purpose-bred sportshorses?”

“At what point does emphasis on type become detrimental to selection for performance?”

There are still voices that will defend ewe necks, narrow chests and poor bone as typical Akhal-Teke breed characteristics but these are best ignored (though one often wishes they could be silenced altogether!). I was equally taken aback by one breeder’s scornful comment about Duag Shael (Gazyr-Djagali) who scored 70%+ at the Young Horse Evaluations in Russia as a six-year-old: “Leonid has finally succeeded in producing an “Akhal-Teke warmblood”. Those less hostile to Babaev might still question whether by producing an Akhal-Teke capable of competing on a par with a European warmblood in dressage we somehow compromise the integrity of this ancient breed.

These are not the questions which Vitali Andrukhovich ponders at the end of each day during his stay at Stal Sprengenhurst. His day begins at 7am when he arrives at the stables, cleans out Makka’s box, brushes the stallion and prepares him for the daily training session at 9am. Rien and Inge take turns on alternate days instructing the pair. We are watching a session with Inge. They work on softness in the rider’s body: “Ride *with* his movement, Vitali”, she says, “do not sit too stiff. Yes, sometimes we have to apply a stronger aid but as soon as the horse responds, the rider must merge into the horse’s movement and *ride with the horse*. In Dutch, we have two words: “Kontrolieren [control] and Beheersen [guide, direct]”. Yes, we must be in control of the horse but to ride dressage we should guide the horse, not restrain it. After all, dressage is a kind of dance.”

After teaching Vitali, Inge rides herself on one of their advanced Dutch horses and the contents of Makka’s lesson unfold in front of our eyes.

If Inge’s instruction is more about transitions, the overall flow and impression, Rien’s sessions are focused on the quality of execution of specific movements. But this remarkable husband&wife team is unanimous about the need to nurture “soft contact in the two reins”, “keeping the horse moving forward” and “not shortening the neck”.

The Dutch have a reputation as “hard” dressage riders nowadays, yet we hear Rien repeat time and time again: “Let go of your hands”, “Don’t fight him”, “Don’t use your strength”. When he rides Makka himself, he intersperses demanding work with stints of rising trot and emphasizes the need to relax the horse first: “I think it is important to let the horse loosen up and settle into his natural way of moving, and then, from this natural movement, I try to make the movement better”.

After the ridden session, Vitali rugs Makka for an hour or so and leaves him tied up, to stop him from rolling while hot, then the stallion is unrugged (he is the only one without a rug in the whole stable), let loose in his box and allowed to enjoy the view of the yard and fresh air from the back window of the stable. At 12pm horses are fed while Vitali cleans tack, has lunch and prepares for the 45-minute afternoon session in-hand, this time in the outside arena. He works Makka in a double bridle with a long

schooling whip, practising half-passes, piaffe and passage.

Afterwards, there is more grooming in store for Makka and more mucking out for Vitali, and then it's back to the hotel to "play back" in his head the lessons learned that day and watch the grand masters of dressage on youtube.

Vitali Andrukhovich was born in 1969 in Moscow. He started riding at the age of four, while visiting grandparents in the countryside. The village herd of cattle were looked after by mounted shepherds and Vitali spent all day with them, from dawn to dusk. "My parents came looking for me, threatening to thrash me with stinging nettles. I used to gallop past them so fast that their heart would skip a beat".

At 13, he gained the Soviet sports qualification "Candidate to Master of Sports", concentrating mostly on show-jumping. "I knew nothing about riding then", says Vitali, "I was just fearless". In 1988 Vitali was conscripted into the Army, after demobilisation worked as a riding instructor and eventually went freelance, organising riding holidays for foreign visitors at the Akhal-Teke Studfarm in Dubna. "We used to ride the Pontecorvo Tekes along the banks of the river Volga. That's when I first 'noticed' this breed".

"What was your main impression?"

"It was their brain, and the possibilities it offered to the rider. Then comes everything else: excellent conformation, elastic movements, good work ethic, bravery. Since then I have been committed to this breed – I worked with them in all disciplines: dressage, jumping, eventing, even circus".

Makka Shael was born in 2004 in Vladimir region (Russia) at the Shamborant stud "Shael-Teke", founded by Leonid Babaev and Sharip Galimov. His sire Gayaz (Gaigysyz-Pampa) had spectacular natural movements (from Pampa, according to Vitali) but did not match these in his work under saddle. His ridden career was short-lived due to a hock injury. Makka's dam was a Fakirpelvan-line mare Melana, daughter of Omar. Babaev divulges a rare breeder's secret: "Omar is the main ingredient. The best foals are the result of the inbreeding on Omar or just those who have his blood."

Makka is endowed with superb leg conformation, characteristic of many of Gayaz children: long, broad, "meaty" forearm, very short cannons, ample bone all around, strong pasterns and good feet. He has powerful, free shoulders, straight action and effortless trot extensions with a high toe and a big swing. His movements are loose and electric, active and exact.

For a Teke, he has a fairly heavy way of landing but the ample energy reserves propel him forward to create the overall impression of power and elegance.

"It was amazing to see him fly through the riding hall", says a Dutch Akhal-Teke owner Anne Stuart who is inspired to continue her dressage work with her own horse, "He looks like a butterfly dancing his way past the other horses".

Makka has established basics, shows excellent collected canter on a small circle with transition to half-pirouette and is almost completely secure at the PrixStGeorge-level elements. He is starting to learn piaffe and passage and working on three- and four-time changes.

The combination is hoping to return to the Netherlands this summer for another 3-months stay and this time to enter some of the Dutch national Opens. The economics of travelling from Russia and back coupled with expenses of staying abroad are daunting but to do this horse justice, Andrukhovich feels it is essential to overcome insularity and work at the European level. Interestingly, he finds the Dutch way of teaching positive and uplifting. "In Russia, I am constantly told "Your problem is...". Here they just get on with it, working on this movement or that".

There are still years of hard work before Makka can claim the high accolades in dressage but he certainly sets an impressive example to which the Akhal-Teke breed today can aspire. May the wind be in his sails.





Saintwestwell Akhal-teke Stud



We are Britain's leading breeder and producer of the Akhal-Teke horse with National titles and European placings. The Akhal-Teke - pure, part and Anglo is growing in popularity throughout the world and is now represented in many disciplines - a true Sport Horse.

An Akhal-Teke foal was awarded the BEF Futurity Youngstock certificate of merit in the endurance section for 2010. There are now several Akhal-teke horses competing, either bred, produced or offspring of Saintwestwell stallions/mares. Saintwestwell sponsors would like to all a successful and enjoyable 2011.

Saintwestwell Maksat



Stallion of Elite Grade
British Show & performance Champion
Silver Dun, Purebred Akhal-Teke Stallion
Race record: 2x 1st, 2x 2nd, and placed.
Holder of two course records from five starts.
Competed at national Endurance level, and has produced proven stock competing up to advanced Endurance level.

Saintwestwell Red Maks

British
Young Stock
Champion
Metallic Bay
Part Bred Akhal-Teke
Sex: Stallion
Sire: Saintwestwell Maksat
Dam: Plas Equestrian
Red Opium Flower



Maksat's exceptionally hard feet, good bone, rider perception, and athletic physique make Maksat a top sire for your future prospects.

Maksat's services are used by many of Britain's former and present top international riders to produce stars for the future.

Maksat's temperament is second to none. He crosses well with many other breeds which are proving to have exceptional athletic ability, paces and aptitude in all disciplines. Maksat's beauty, smooth flowing paces, superb balance and high intelligence are being passed on to all his offspring.

A.I. available

Saintwestwell Stud would like to congratulate:

The Saintwestwell Maksat on the success of his offspring:

Congratulations to Saintwestwell Silver Mask



& Ray & Sharon Davison
Advanced Level:
2nd Berkshire Downs 130km 2010
1st Ridgeway Barbury Castle ER 2010
2nd Kings Forest 80km ER 2010
GHR 80km 2Day Gold 2010
10th in Senior EGB Championship ranking 2010
2nd Male Rider EGB Championship ranking 2010

Saintwestwell Golden Czar



(Owned and ridden by E. Winn)
Advanced Level:
Red Dragon 80km ER
2nd 2006 European Breed Performance Awards

Aberllywd Aktasha



(Bred & owned by Joan & Ian Rawnsley, ridden by P. Rawnsley-Evans) Group Award Winner

Contact us today for further information:

www.saintwestwell.co.uk / www.akhal-teke.co.uk

lorna@saintwestwell.co.uk

01558 650242 / 07876222605



For The Best ... Use The Best ... Get The Best