



**THE CASPIAN
MAGAZINE OF THE
CASPIAN HORSE
SOCIETY
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2021

**Your introduction to the
world of Caspian Horses!**

**Keeping you abreast with
all things Caspian.**



WELCOME!

Welcome to the Caspian Magazine 2021

So here we go again – what a year! Who on earth could have predicted 2021 would be so similar to 2020 and all that was not to be on the horse front? or any other front for that matter!

Starting off the year with yet another lockdown, it looked like 2021 was about to be a complete write off too, but thankfully some things did manage to get up and running by the Summer holidays, some things were held behind closed doors, and some were scaled down completely.

Once again Ashby show fell victim of the pandemic, so a 2nd Virtual Show was held, this time in November, attracting nearly 300 entries from all across the globe; some had ‘competed’ in the last show, some were first timers, all seemed to have a good time.

One event that did happen was Mid Devon Show. The weather, although not a hot as the previous time we went (thankfully) was decent and the organisers were delighted that over 14,000 visitors attended.

As I put this magazine together certainly owners in the UK seem to have had more jabs than our horses, you need to mortgage your house to get a tank of fuel to go anywhere and there is the distinct possibility that Santa will be short of carrots for his reindeer. At least on a positive note, with less mince pies and pigs in blanket in circulation we might not put on those extra pounds this Christmas!

I hope you enjoy looking at all the news and pictures of our beloved Caspian horses from all across the world,

Stay safe

Nichola

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From Our Chairman...

After the desperate year we all went through in 2020 because of the Pandemic, we were all looking forward to getting out and about again and seeing friends and family. This took a long time in coming but eventually things started to return to some sort of new normality and a lot of shows, camps, competitions, travel and general activities were able to take place. How lovely that was, with many of us seeing friends and relations after several months and being able to take out our Caspians for a few outings and compete and even go abroad, albeit with difficult and often expensive restrictions.

However, as 2021 draws to a close, for so many of us it will be remembered for all the wrong reasons. Our great supporter Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh died just a few months before his 100th birthday. Watching the funeral, who can forget the forlorn picture of The Queen sitting all alone under Covid restrictions in St Georges Chapel as the dignified service took its course. He had been a great friend to our Society ever since the Caspian appeared over here in the early sixties and will be a huge loss in so many ways.

Several shows including Ashby had to be cancelled but Rebecca Mann, helped by Nichola Waddicor were on parade to fly the Caspian flag at the Devon Show and we are very grateful for that. Penny Walsters 'Monkey' was also doing great things in the dressage arenas up north with young Milly Bowler and many others have told us of their successes both in person or via 'virtual' events. What a boon these have become! You will see in the Magazine the ongoing successes of Khoja and his new life. Also of many other Caspians around the world in the report on the second highly successful virtual show. We are so grateful to Nichola, Barbara and the team who put so much time and effort into making this such a feature once again.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and hopefully a much healthier and Happy New Year when we can all get out and about again. Look after yourselves and your Caspians and above all keep safe and well!

Jane finally receives CVO Royal Victoria Order awarded by the Queen in October 2020

After a long wait due to the current and ongoing COVID situation, I was finally invited to the investiture at Windsor Castle in November where I was elevated to a CVO (Commander of the Victorian Order).

I was presented with this by The Princess Royal to whom I had been a Lady in Waiting for 34 years.



Jane (right) with her sister, Jennie Loriston-Clarke

Jane



Meet Caroline!

Hello Everyone. I am introducing myself as the new CHS secretary!

I live in West Kington, Wiltshire, the other end of the village from Jane Holderness-Roddam and Harry Thirlby.

Over the past 8 years Harry has grazed a number of his horses in my fields. I used to ride and breed Highland ponies, so when these little spindly things turned up, I wasn't too sure about them, but over the years I got to know the horses and learnt a lot about the breed from Harry, and I came to realise the importance of the survival of this very rare and ancient breed.

Then 2 years ago when Harry had 4 foals born outside my kitchen window, I fell in love with one and now I am the proud owner of a 2-year-old filly Holloway Mahla ("May"), by Holloway Pirouz ("Brian") out of Hollow Zarrin Minoo ("Harriet").

She is the apple of my eye. Since I have had her I have handled her a lot and took her to a couple of shows this summer where she was very good. I hope to get her out and about more in the future.



Rostam (offside) and Maroun, Smith's Lawn, Windsor 1978. Driven by Ernest Long (Head Coachman) Photo S.Lemoine.

HRH Prince Philip
10 June 1921 – 9 April 2021

HRH Cont'

So where do you start? Much has been written about HRH PP.

From the Caspian's first re-emergence into the modern world, His Royal Highness was interested in the breed and keen to ensure that it survived. On the ride that Prince Philip and Princess Anne enjoyed with Louise and Nourouzabad grooms after the Shah's "Party in the Desert", (which celebrated the 2,500-year anniversary of the Persian Empire) in 1971, Louise Firouz told how he had admired the two Caspians ridden by her husband Nancy and daughter Ateshe, which had kept pace with the larger horses and shown no fear in plunging down often precipitous hills.

Prince Philip had expressed an interest in seeing these gutsy little 'ponies' after the ride and Louise proudly showed him the early inhabitants of her new Caspian stud, comprising foundation and first-generation horses bred at Nourouzabad. Thanks to Louise's enthusiasm she had so interested him in their story that he'd asked what would happen to them all being in one place should illness wipe out those few specimens. How like him, to go straight to the point!

In response, Louise had offered him the stallion Rostam and mare Khorshid Kola as a gift, which was graciously accepted. During their long quarantine in Hungary, the pair produced the filly Atesheh.

50th Anniversary Calendar Presentation- Ruth Staines

I had the privilege of meeting His Royal Highness, Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh, at Buckingham Palace on December 3rd 2015 when the CHS presented him with a copy of the Fiftieth Anniversary (of the rediscovery of the Caspian Horse) Calendar produced by filmmaker Farokh Khorrooshi with Photographer Colin Barker.

Prince Philip spent half an hour chatting to us: he immediately put us at ease and of course was really knowledgeable about all things equine. We felt we could have a robust discussion with him but he always kept a twinkle in his eye!

In his latter years I would email copies of 'The Caspian' magazine via his private secretaries who all reported that he read them with interest. Extraordinary considering all his many charitable interests!



Photo credit: Colin Baldwin

His Royal Highness much appreciated your thought in writing. Congratulations once again to Kineton Khoja at the Indoor Driving Trials last November, and I hope further success ensued at Crick earlier this year. This letter comes with Prince Philip's best wishes to you and all members.

BDS Annual Show - 2016

Each year the British Driving Society hold their annual show on Smith's Lawn, Windsor. It is a long standing tradition that all prize winners do a 'fly pass' at the end of the day. Tradition also holds the HM The Queen presents the sashes to all the Champions.

Although Khoja never actually won a championship at Smith's Lawn, he did take part in a fly pass in 2016, after being well placed in the exercise vehicle class.

Amelia was lucky enough to win the Young Driver Championship in 2014 (with my pony Cosmo) receiving her sash from HMTQ and also had a conversation with Prince Philip, who obviously congratulated her and remarked on what an unusual colour he was, as well as being interested in the 1902 Rally Cart he was put to. (They also had a bit of a laugh and a joke later when she bumped into him whilst exiting the portaloos.....)



His Royal Highness did notice the Caspian, Kineton Khoja, at Smith's Lawn. I wish his owner and driver every success in future driving trials with him.



An interview with HRH Prince Philip

Brenda Dalton

The request for an interview by an Iranian film crew was daunting enough; that I was asked to make arrangements for interviews with prominent people in the world of equestrianism and rare breeds, and obtain visas for the crew, became a nightmare, involving miles of red tape and an ever-changing itinerary. That this happened during the last half term of the school term added considerably to the stress factor.

I was mildly amused when they asked me to arrange an interview with Prince Philip. However, I made the request; at least no-one could say I hadn't tried. It was therefore no small shock when the answer, subject to a few conditions, was that His Royal Highness would grant an interview at Buckingham Palace on the Tuesday after we broke up for the summer holidays. My amazement at having succeeded mixed with consternation when I received a telephone call from the producer asking that I should be the person to conduct the interview!

There were ever-changing messages on my answerphone, requests on my e-mail and the Foreign Office even managed to find me in school.

The visas were issued a day too late for the scheduled flight from Iran and I breathed a sigh of relief when the crew told me they couldn't get another for two weeks. However, they managed to get one within three days when I told them that I would have to cancel the interview and it was extremely unlikely that we would be granted another.

Accompanied by my husband and sister, and a mobile phone which attracted calls in the most awkward of places, usually in competition with the noise of mid London traffic, we arrived in the late afternoon, exhausted, at our Hotel, having set out before dawn. The phone rang again before we had taken our coats off. Would we go over to the Hilton at Marble Arch, to discuss the arrangements for the next day? We arrived to find that cameras had already been set up to film my interview about the Caspian itself, in the dining room. Without preparation or warning I was expected to talk about Caspian horses for ten minutes. There and then I couldn't remember how many legs they had; were they pink or blue?! Suffice it to say, I felt that it was a disaster. Another re-vamp to the itinerary took up the remainder of the evening.

The following morning, the crew were ready and waiting outside the palace gates - twenty minutes early. Two British Policemen were querying their presence there. We flashed our appointment letter before the Police guard and stepped over the red carpet at the Privy Purse entrance, watched by crowds of visitors, whose flashing cameras showed that they mistakenly assumed that we were important.

The equipment was set up just in time and at 9.30 a.m. exactly I was introduced to Prince Philip. My job was then to introduce the film crew to Prince Philip. We chatted for a few minutes, making a final check on information, although he was obviously already well versed, and we began. In stark contrast to my own, this interview was well rehearsed. I had sent the questions and all the information required to answer them, on ahead, such as how had he become involved with the Caspians, which Caspians did he own, what activities were they involved in? It went without a hitch. Prince Philip never once looked at the notes on his lap. Indeed it had been on his instructions that the Palace had informed me of the death of Rostam.

Since the formation of the ICS we had kept him informed of our activities, as the (now) CHS had done before me, and the conversation that followed proved that His Royal Highness was fully conversant with the Caspians that were taking part in the Prince Philip Cup Team and the existence of one of my mares, sired by Rostam. As he left the room I breathed a sigh of relief, but, it had escaped my notice that the camera had been set up to focus on Prince Philip and the crew now wished to do a re-run, moving the camera so that it focused on the interviewer. With a little less enthusiasm or sincerity, I asked the questions again; this time to the Producer, now sitting in the chair which HRH had recently vacated. At another interview following the death of Louise Firouz, this happened again but this time whilst Prince Philip was still in the room. With his usual sense of humour, he quipped that he could see that they couldn't afford two cameras!



I had taken up a long-standing invitation to visit the Royal Mews if ever I was in London, timed to take place before they opened to members of the public at 11 a.m. so for the next hour my husband, sister and I enjoyed a private tour of the Mews (readying itself for the Queen Mother's birthday celebrations) during which we gained an insight into the private world of the Royal family and their excellent relationship with the Mews staff. As the Queen includes the Irish Draught in the horses she breeds, it was a bonus to be able to take useful photographs for another Allen book on the Irish Draught horse.

The following morning I met up with them again at their hotel where I had arranged for them to interview Lawrence Alderson, whose expertise and experience made him a natural subject.

In order to cope with the changing itinerary I had people on stand-by around the south of England, arrangements being made on the 'hoof' (sorry) by mobile phone (without all the capabilities then that they have today) outside Kensington Palace, on an escalator, in the underground etc. On their last day, when I was already back home, they replaced a driver I had arranged to take them to Chippenham to see the Henden Stud. Unfortunately, on the return journey from Chippenham to the airport, they had an accident, paid £800 to get away, hopefully in time to reach their plane, (which they missed) and then found that they had 'lost' all their remaining money in the accident.

Memories of an Ardent Royal Supporter,

By Elizabeth Webster

I have been asked to give you an account of a side of Prince Philip that we might have seen during our years working with Buckingham Palace. We met the Duke several times. Each time we found him to be warm, friendly and amusing, with a lively interest in the horses at Hopstone and our progress in introducing them to the horse-loving public.

In 1996 we were invited to stage our Annual Breed Show in the Park. Afterwards I was alone in our tent when Prince Philip and Sir John turned up and spent some time asking about the show and studying our photographs. (This is the same show where Her Majesty presented the Show Championship to Henden Stud's

Cont'...

outstanding colt Hopstone Shabdiz, unaware that he was bred by us out of her husband's mare.) It seems that nothing was too much trouble for him where the Caspians were concerned. The same could be said of Sir John Miller. One evening during the 1980s, Louise rang us from Tehran to say that she was planning to take several Caspians over the mountains and out of Iran to provide new bloodlines for western breeders.

She begged me to ask Prince Philip whether, as President of the World Wildlife Fund, he could use his influence to help her. Rather embarrassed, I rang Sir John and asked him what he thought. He offered to consult Prince Philip and the Queen after they had eaten supper, which they were just about to do and then ring me back.

Sure enough, he did so about an hour later. The message from Prince Philip was that, whilst he could try to intervene on her behalf, he thought it best not to, "to protect Mrs Firouz from herself." I had to agree with Sir John that this would, indeed, be in Louise's best interests!

To sum up, I cannot think of a single incidence when Prince Philip and his Equerry, Sir John, did not help, support and encourage Mum and I in our Caspian venture. They gave us every possible opportunity to promote the Caspians. Even now, I miss them both.



'The Caspian' 2021

Tim Holderness-Roddam 1942-2021



Tim who died suddenly in April this year, was married to our Chairman Jane for 47 years. Together they owned and set up West Kington Stud and Farm, standing numerous well known stallions including Cevin Z and Badminton winner Chilli Morning, specialising in breeding top competition stallions. Tim's experience in agriculture and international trading complimented Jane's equestrian activities and together they built up a very successful partnership in the equestrian world.

Tim started his career with Military service in the 14/20th Hussars and then joined Tate and Lyle plc culminating in the role of MD of the United Molasses Group. He was a former director of the luxury travel business Abercrombie and Kent, Countrywide Farmers and Deputy Chair of Friends of Conservation, an international charity operating mainly in Africa which he set up with his great friend Geoffrey Kent.

Tim's equestrian roles had included chair of the Horse Trials Support Group, British Equestrian Fédération Fund, Blenheim Palace Horse Trials and a member of Burghley Horse Trials and the British Equestrian Federation as well as being on the board of Bristol Port. He was awarded the British Equestrian Federation Medal of Honour in 2010 for his outstanding achievement and contribution to the international equestrian world.

He was a great supporter of Caspians and all breeding and eventing activities and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Pony Tales...



March 2021

So literally 2 days before Amelia headed off for RAF basic training, there we were out filming for a New Children's TV show called Pony Tales.

Although production of the series has been delayed by ongoing COVID issues, hopefully it will be out next year.



Amelia drove Khoja and World Horse Welfare Graham as a pair and demonstrated cones and obstacles (goal posts on the village playing field), much to the amusement of the villagers!

Mable then had a go at driving Cosmo and seemed to thoroughly enjoy it (we'll convert them yet!).



Team Khoja – end of an era?

2021 – so 2020 Indoor season finished, well it never actually got started. After the one event in Oct '21 (1st) the whole season was cancelled.

And then a major life change. Having applied for both the Police and the RAF in what seemed like a life time ago, suddenly it was all systems go – Amelia was off, but which direction was it going to be?

She finally settled on the RAF – with a start date of the end of May we thought we'd at least get a few events in at the start of the season – however rather dramatically the start date was pulled forward to March! So that was that. Gone. And Khoja was left standing in the field.

Not that it meant he was out of the news....



Which left the heart breaking decision of what to do with Khoja. Amelia had been in contact with the RAF equestrian team, but they only support more traditional equestrian events, it was a no to carriage driving.

The right thing to do was to find him a competitive home where he could continue with the job he loved. So late on a Friday night, amongst much tears, the advert went up. And by lunchtime the next day he was gone.



Now I drive, but I don't drive at Mac3 and Khoja would hate 'pottering' round the lanes. Khoja doesn't to leisurely. So no way were we going out together. Horse agility it was!

Always a professional, Khoja took it very seriously, we did a few events notching up two 2nds and a 1st.



RAF basic training is not just hard, it's beyond hard, and it's for three months. We agreed that Khoja would stay and a final decision as to what to do would be made when/if she got through 'basics'. And she did, graduating on the hottest day in June. Proud mum was there.

BUT THE STORY CONTINUES...

Khoja at HOYS 2021

Heart breaking though it was, we are absolutely delighted to report that Khoja is now with one of the Top driving homes in the country!

And a change of discipline – Khoja has moved over to DOUBLE HARNESS SCURRY.

Fast and furious, and very much in the public eye, scurry can be seen at all the major country shows across the Summer where drivers battle it out to qualify for the Osborne Refrigerators Double Harness Scurry Championship, held at The Horse of The Year show annually.

And it was only the reigning Double Harness Scurry Driver of the Year, Alison Osborne, who had grabbed Khoja's reins.

Paired with his new Best Friend Forever, Chip, Khoja is the other half of Chip n Dale. And WOW, he has taken to it like a duck to water.

Within two weeks of him joining the Osborne Team, he was at the Royal International Horse Show, Hickstead, with his first ever run out, remarkably Chip n Dale took the reserve champion placing and qualified for HOYS. (incidentally, Alison won the championship with her small pony pair Buzz and Woody)

I've probably got it wrong, but I recon they had 3 Res Champ and 1 Champ by the time they headed for HOYS.

Alison invited us up to see him compete – and it was amazing to be reunited with him.

He looked very happy, and totally relaxed. It was strange being back there!

2nd in round one (Thurs) and round 2 (Fri) meant they were through to the final on Saturday night.



Saturday evening, as we know from experience, is packed, and this year was no exception. Chip n Dale run as a large pony pair, as Khoja is only just 12hh he could race in either large or small pony pairs but Chip is 12.3hh Sec B so that automatically means they are classed as large. But the championship is against all those who got through the qualifying rounds, large or small. Alison had qualified both her teams of ponies, and as defending champion she was certainly not there to make the numbers up!

She had taken the lead with Woody and Buzz, and at breath taking speed had run Chip and Dale into 2nd place. It was beyond tense until the last competitor had gone. An amazing achievement. Alison retained her title and was reserve champion too.

Having only had Khoja for about three months, taken him to a new home, he had to get used to a new driver, driving as a pair with a pony he didn't know, in a discipline he had never done before. What can you say? We are beyond thrilled for them.



Incredible action photo by Paul Orchard.



Caspian Foals 2021



Edcombe Abu

S: Sirhowy Ahura Mazda

D: Edcombe Cassima



Edcombe Jasper

S: Sirhowy Ahura Mazda

D: Edcombe Amethyst



Holloway Farzeen

S: Holloway Pirouz

D: Bytham Phillamena



Rosmear Tarique

S: Esta Chezir (Arab)

D: Elske – S: Costessa Siyoun (Caspian) D: Opal Black (Arab)



- Roleystone Horse Show
- *Caspian Class*
- *June 2021*

- *Generously sponsored by Liz Mansfield, with special HRH Prince Philip Memorial Rosettes sponsored by Barbara Smathers*



My First Test On Monkey

Monkey is my bay Caspian pony. His passport name is Costessa Feysul, but we call him Monkey. His real owner and breeder is Vicki Shortis, but he lives with us.

On the 25th April 2021, I went to a test at Kneesall dressage to ride Monkey. It was my first time riding a test on Monkey and off lead rein. I was very excited and nervous! I did an intro walk and trot test and got 61.1%.

Obviously, it wasn't perfect. The only mistake I made was I did an extra loop on my 3 loop, serpentine and mummy had to say, "At C, turn around" and I did not know how I did and extra loop but me and mummy had a laugh after the test.

I was so happy with my effort, and I got better than I thought! I actually got 8th place and I am very proud! I will love Monkey forever.

From Millie Bowler (age 9)

Me and My Pony's Year, 2021

This year, me and my pony, Costessa Feysul (Monkey) have done a lot! I am going to go over most of the things we have done this year:-

- In April, we did 3 pony club rallies, my first ever prelim at PES (Kneesall and I have already written about it);
- In May, we did 2 pony club rallies;
- In June, we went to Eakring for a hunt ride and Belvoir Castle for an 8 miles hunt ride, and 2 PES dressage competitions (same day just different tests).
- In August, we went to riverside dressage to do 2 tests, we went on another hunt ride with pony club, we did two tests at Vale view and on one I **qualified for trailblazers**, we went to pony club camp for 4 days and I did a lot of jumping and cross country, we went to Milton dressage.
- In September, we went to PES dressage (if you are wondering why we go so much, it is on the last Saturday of every month so we always go) and we went to pony club dressage;
- In October, we did a pony club rally, training with Gill Liggins, (Gill is mummy's dressage trainer), riverside dressage and the Caspian virtual show dressage and ridden.
- To come, we have PES dressage on Dennis, the next day we have pony club dressage on Monkey, and a Christmas rally!

Thank you so much for reading about me and my Caspian pony's year, it has been really fun and we are so excited for the years to come.

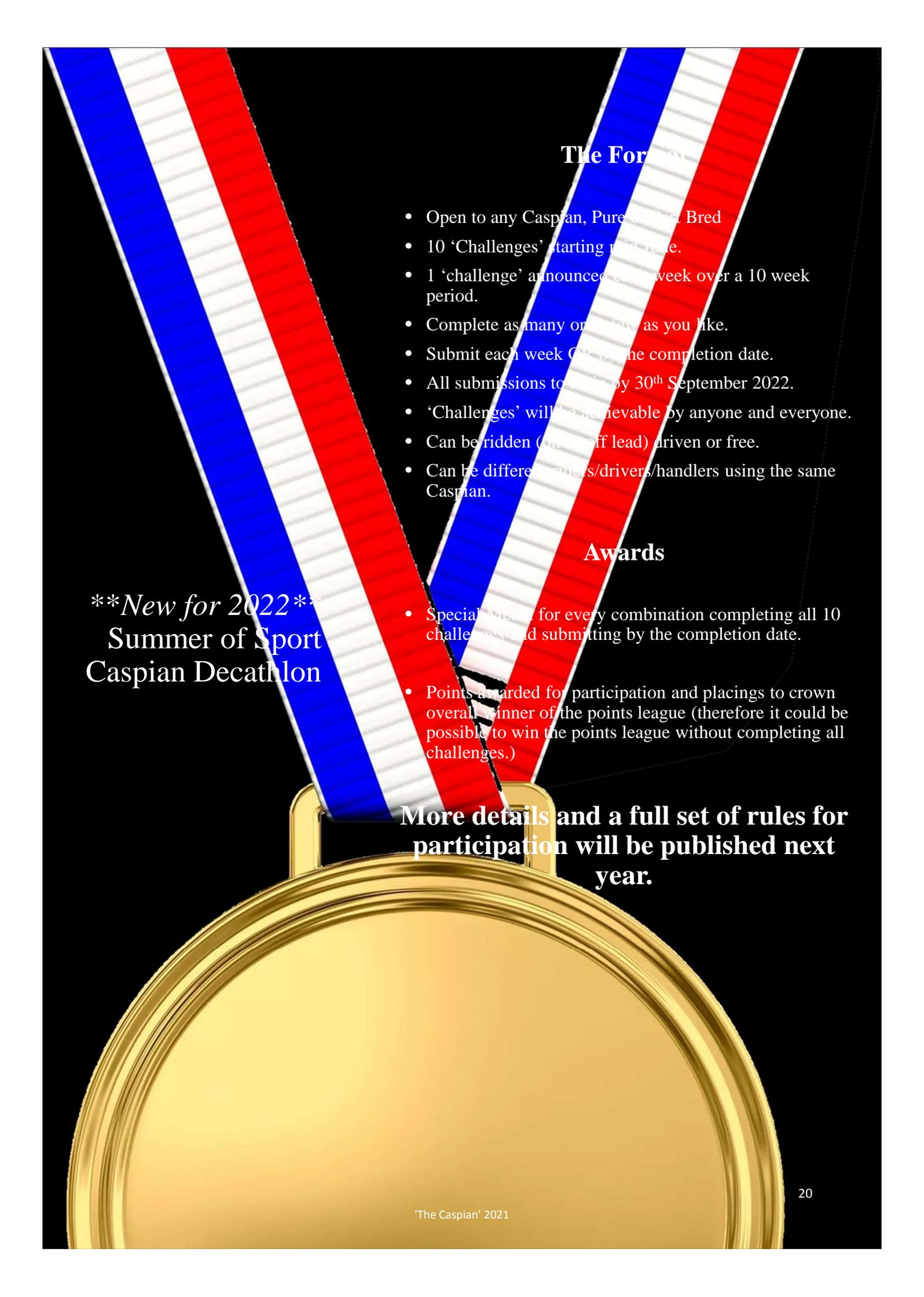


Editors note: back in October I had the absolute pleasure of spending the day with Millie, Penny and Monkey and witness (with video in hand) Millie and Monkey winning an Intro test!

Mid Devon Show July 2021

Once again, CHS was invited to do a couple of displays, with commentary, in the Countryside Arena of this large country show. Rebecca Mann took the ever reliable Aladdin, who was ridden and driven, as well as the lovely mare Edcombe Cassima with her foal Edcombe Abu.





The Format

- Open to any Caspian, Pure or Part Bred
- 10 'Challenges' starting mid June.
- 1 'challenge' announced each week over a 10 week period.
- Complete as many or as few as you like.
- Submit each week OR by the completion date.
- All submissions to be in by 30th September 2022.
- 'Challenges' will be achievable by anyone and everyone.
- Can be ridden (on a staff lead) driven or free.
- Can be different riders/drivers/handlers using the same Caspian.

Awards

- Special Medal for every combination completing all 10 challenges and submitting by the completion date.
- Points awarded for participation and placings to crown overall winner of the points league (therefore it could be possible to win the points league without completing all challenges.)

*****New for 2022*****
Summer of Sport
Caspian Decathlon

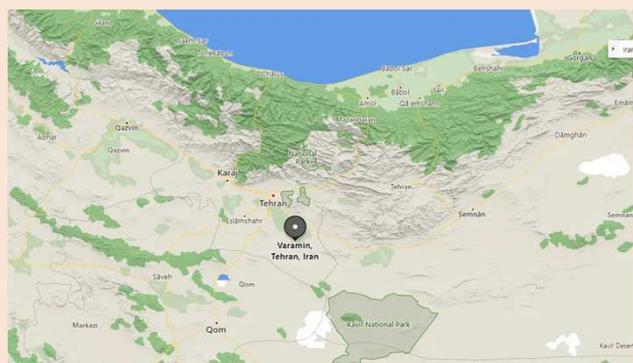
More details and a full set of rules for participation will be published next year.

Part Stud – Iran

Many viewers to the Caspian Virtual Show 2021 will have admired the beautiful Iranian entries, with the now iconic Men In White – we wanted to find out more....

I understand that the stud is one of, if not the, largest in Iran, could you tell us a bit about where you are located and how long the stud has been running for?

The Part complex is located Southeast of Tehran, the capital of Iran, in the city of Varamin. Varamin is one of the oldest and most historic cities in Iran and is an important crossroads in the region. The main reason for establishing a stud farm in this part of the country was to recreate its past glory. One of the largest patriarchs of Iran, "Ilkhi Varamin" was located in this region and it was a place of immense wealth and activity. We have been involved in the business of poultry and livestock, the horses are complimentary to our traditional farming projects.



How many stallions do you currently have and how many are Caspians? Which horse breed is the most popular if not Caspian?

The total number of horses in the Varamin complex is over 400, which includes various Iranian and foreign breeds, including Caspian, Turkmen, Kurdish, Friesian, KWPN and Holstein.



The number of Caspian horses is about 80, with three main stallions. Among the native horses of Iran, I am also interested in the Turkmen horse (Akhhal Teke and Yamut) and seek to preserve the breed and produce the Turkmen breed to the level of international competitions. I think it is important to underline the historic and genomic importance of the native breeds and I would like to be involved in the spread of this movement of preservation of our native breeds. I also have to admit that I love all horses and animals in general. Of course, apart from the Part Horse Breeding Complex in Varamin, we have more than 100 horses in various equestrians facilities in Iran, which we have provided for free in order to promote equestrian sports and the breeding of sports horses.



Do you have your own Caspian mares or do you have visiting ones?

We have more than 50 Caspian mares, most of which are pre-foundation* and found in the provinces of Gilan and Mazandaran. Through a strenuous selective breeding program, we produce good quality Caspian horses using top rate sires such as Berjis Arad and Shabahang. (* i.e. they are phenotypically excellent Caspians and are going through the process of assessment, DNA testing and registration in the ICSB) In order to support Caspian breeders and protect and preserve the breed, outside mares are also accepted for covering with our stallions.

Do you have Caspians that compete in any discipline?

Yes. Caspian horses from the Part Stud have been entered in all Caspian breed shows and have been very successful. A number of horses also participate in domestic competitions for children although jumping is the most prevalent discipline.

But if you mean all equestrian disciplines, I must say that carriage driving competitions are not held in Iran, but we are trying to develop this and other sports, especially for the Caspian horse.



How do you see the future for the Caspian in Iran? Do you have a formal breeding program? Is there much demand for pure bred Caspians?

Coinciding with the beginning of our professional equestrian breeding program, the Caspian Conservation Society was formed, and one of their major goals is to register Caspians. They are also very active in promoting selective breeding for rare breeds, a philosophy we very much share.

Most of our Caspians are in the pre-foundation category but have already gone through assessment by national assessors as well as an international assessor. Approved horses are already going through DNA testing and should be well on their way to being registered and entered into the ICSB.

During the past few years, the price of Caspians has increased almost exponentially. This means that it is now profitable to run a breeding program and our training activities ensure that Caspians are now considered ideal candidates for children who are not only learning how to ride but are in the more advanced categories of competition.

How do you see the future for the Caspians round the World?

I think one of the greatest dangers facing Caspian breeders outside Iran is genetic depression to the small number of bloodlines available while in Iran we have a Caspian population with very good genetic diversity. I believe the best way to approach this problem is through greater cooperation between breeders in Iran and abroad. I am very optimistic about the future of this breed. It is very well regarded in sporting terms and as one of the very few ancestral breeds still alive today should be preserved and used widely both in the world of sport but in breeding programs as well.

Are you able to collect semen for AI purposes and are you able to export?

In Part Stud set have no restrictions AI. We have reproductive specialists and we are equipping our laboratory to start freezing the sperm of our Caspian stallions. Our mission is the "protection of the genetic resources of the Iranian horse". Therefore, we will soon be able to start our own Caspian sperm bank and plan on doing so with other Iranian breeds as well. Regarding the export of sperm and embryos, we are ready to do so with the aim of helping to protect Iranian breeds worldwide, if the government issues an export licenses.

What do you think about cross breeding of Caspians (or any other breed)?



Let the experts on genetics and breeding give their opinions on this subject. We do not have a plan to produce part-bred Caspian horses in the Part Stud's Caspian program. Our mission is to preserve Iranian breeds, and we are committed to maintaining the purity of the breed and producing purebred Caspian horses.

The climate in Iran is very different to the UK, do you need to feed your horses anything special to keep them looking in such good condition?

The original geographic location of this horse is the forests of northern Iran, which are very similar to England, but at our stud we keep horses in large paddocks and their feeding is done under the supervision of a livestock nutritionist. Their main food is alfalfa and barley. High quality nutritional supplements are used in the nutrition of stallions, pregnant mares and foals.

In your photos and videos both the horses and the handlers are immaculately turned out, what do you use to keep the white clothes so white???

Our workers and grooms are so busy that they need to wash their clothes rather frequently but we usually use dark uniforms. We use bright white clothes for handlers and riders in breed shows and competitions to make the clarity of our goals brighter and our approach more open and friendly.

POLICE, CAMERA – ACTION! Brenda Dalton

Reflections on the International Meeting in Texas - 1999

The pistol-packing Texan cop who pulled us over for speeding was every bit as intimidating as the movies would have us believe. There were a few anxious moments whilst ICS Secretary, Joyce Covington, seemed to be able to produce every document she possessed except the ones relating to the ownership of the car, before even the cop had to smile at his own audacity in stopping Sheriff Firouz and four of her Deputies!

The badges were a gift from the flamboyant San Antonio Caspian breeder, Jane Macon, whose herd we had visited that morning. Having crowned all her guests with a sun-saving Stetson and a U.S. bandana, she took us off to the stables of Mexican film star Vicinti Fernandez. to see, not only her own herd of beautiful Caspians but the Mexican Dancing horses which had, ironically, been bred back over 35 years from the larger descendants of the Caspian, to their original Caspian-like type and size. Returning to Jane's home, we were treated to a delicious outdoor lunch, whilst Jane's miniatures wandered around us, one taking nips at our seated rear ends in order to entice us to share the delicacies.

Here we were joined by several other Caspian breeders, amongst them Australia's Maureen Byrne and CHSA President, Francie Stull, whose home at Austin was our second port of call. Francie's two English stallions displayed their talent for tricks, no doubt to impress the mares and youngstock, shown individually by her two Russian grooms. Two of the larger mares, from which Francie and Chuck intend to breed crosses, a Quarter Horse and an Arabian, had foals at foot, both of which were very impressive and will certainly be an asset to the Caspian name in the show rings of the future.

One of the highlights for me was meeting Sister Angela Chandler, the first U.S. Registrar, where I acquired some fascinating Monastery Pottery, particularly a small midnight blue urn, sporting robed figures admiring what Louise assured us is a Turkoman stallion.!

Louise and I had already been privileged to visit Anne and Les Stevens' Texana Farm, so a second chance to see Texana stallions, beautifully handled by David, their farm manager, was a true delight. From the house, in a central position, all windows provided framed views of neat Caspian paddocks, or the lake and barn, outside which they had generously built a viewing platform to provide shade for their visitors during the stallion parade.

A Grand Barbecue, complete with Country and Western Band and succulent Mexican food (they don't breed beef like that in the UK) rounded off a very intoxicating day. The afternoon had followed Louise Firouz's riveting video talk at the Ramada Hotel, Brenham. It came as a real bonus when Anne and Les agreed to take orders for copies of these tapes to be transferred to National formats, now one of my most valued possessions.

The following afternoon was held at the home of Joyce and Felix Covington, my incomparable hosts for the week. Joyce has gone to the trouble of 'collaring' and cataloguing all her stock so that they could be identified easily by visitors touring the farm on thoughtfully provided golf carts. Francie Stull took along two Caspians with intricately braided manes and breeders exchanged international showing advice and methods with Pandora Best and Pat Bowles.



Cont'

There were so many events during this action-packed week that I apologise if I have not mentioned them all here but the memories will live for ever; rock 'n' roll in a Turkoman costume, a gift to Joyce from Louise; the trial-driving session with a pair of Caspians; the 'Chuck and Brenda' new Texas Waltz!, the ice cream in the spa, (oh that cherry vanilla) the Margaritas, the giant prawns, the Reception in the Bunk House with Texas-shaped cakes, swimming with Louise, seeing the horses I had bred in their new surroundings, the drive around Texana with the magnificent Hercules (not forgetting Trojan), the book-launch and meeting Dru Harper who photographed the front cover stallion, Chippendale Bahram, and his breeder, Shauna Mills-Swart from Australia, and all the wonderful documentation painstakingly prepared by Vicki Hudgins, Joyce Covington and Naomi Thomas, to add to my archives.



I met the Australian Eiffler family – now much more than a name on the registration documents to me (how did those bottles of wine remain intact?); the Pohls, Nan and Don Scroggins and Jim Russ, familiar names, now familiar faces, to name a few. I was humbled by Bonnie Hendricks' voluminous Encyclopaedia of the Horse and intrigued by the ideas of script writer Rick Demme for the Louise Firouz life story.

We were overwhelmed with hospitality, love and goodwill.

I took roll after roll of film only to find that at some point my camera had let me down badly. Thank you Anne, Joyce and Vicki and others who so generously provided me, not only with immeasurable hospitality, but with copies of your personal photos of all the wonderful people and horses we met during a week in Caspian Heaven.



Silver finds his inner Unicorn

We've managed to start working again from March this year which is great! We've been super busy all summer and are now getting ready for all of our Christmas events, don't know where the year has disappeared too!

Igglepiggie is now called Silver, we thought it suited him more!

He had a bout of laminitis this year unfortunately and we've also had great difficulties with his feet! We have had the physio out to check him all over and apparently, he's super supple, so no problems there. We then had the vet out to X-ray his front hooves as I was convinced along with my farrier that his pedal bone had twisted, turns out they're fine and all pointed in the right direction, he just has very strange foot growth!

He grows a lot of toe but no heel and has thin soles, so my vet/farrier have been working together to try and work out what's best for him and he has for the last 4months had "normal" front shoes on just sat right back. Seems to be working for him and he's not showing any lameness now which is great.

Otherwise, he's been "unicorning" and will be getting involved with the Christmas events, I wanted to train him to drive this year, but time hasn't been on my side. We offer a unicorn cart ride at our Xmas events, and I think he would be great at this; I'll aim for next year maybe! He has a very cute elf outfit for Christmas I'll get some pics over to you with him in it.

He's been out and about in the box quite a bit with my daughter, where he has thin soles, he really enjoys the soft sand beach and the sandy gallops. He really goes for it; my daughter just shuts her eyes and holds on!

He stood like a saint the week before last for a full hair cut and looks like a different boy! He is a total mud monster and takes every opportunity he can to roll around in it! Not ideal when he needs to be a sparkly unicorn!

Two week in the life of stunt horses and their crew.

Recently at Bittell Farm Stables we had the honour and enjoyment to livery and care for 15 stunt horses working the night shift on a new epic movie for Amazon .

these horses we're mostly Friesian or Friesian type with amazing temperaments and characters under varying ages the normal working shift while staying with us was from 5:00 PM working through the night and home at 5 30 AM. they were like true professionals and they thoroughly enjoyed their work

they had to do these times because closing a busy city centre is difficult at the best of times and so building up to Christmas was even more a challenge.

while at work these horses were treated like gods and goddess's they wanted for nothing and in return they gave stunning performances there is footage on various sites of their work

each horse has it's own rider and groom plus a huge wardrobe and make up artists to enable the correct effects for filming every need is taken care of.

While some people would say this is cruel , having witnessed the care and attention to every detail for myself these horses love their work and are kept in stunning form . When it came to loading up at night for work mostly these horses went rugged and booted on their own to the lorry in our enclosed yard and upon command loaded themselves

Upon returning home from a hard nights work to lavish beds, plenty of haylage and individual diets they stood almost patiently to be waited on.

For more information visit www.stevedent.co.uk

Within 20 minutes or so the crew went home, we took over their day care and in due course they each put themselves to bed and were fast asleep or resting like true professionals. Then all was peace and quiet for the next few hours with only some stirring as we got near lunchtime and more food..

All was kept quiet around them and then by 4pm they were in the swing of things and started getting themselves into work mode..

We thoroughly enjoyed having these horses , we invited with permission a few people to see them as amongst our favourites was the original War Horse (Joey) who knew he was special with his own fan club and Lambert whose speciality was open doors !! After their 2 weeks hard work was up they were all going home to a well earned winter rest . It has been an honour to have worked with these horses, I am full of respect for the company who produce them and the team of staff who care for them on their vast travels and I realise now how much these horses love their work .

Thank you for choosing us Steve Dent Stunt Horses and Carriages.

Janet Dediccoat at Bittell Farm Stables



Warhorse

News from France *Roxane Stud*

This year, the Stud has no birth, but we are hoping foals for the next year. To this day, pregnant diagnosis are not confirmed. Breeding activities are complicated because we are looking to relocate the Stud.

Due to the covid, pony-club activities are perturbed, and Rana is back home. The younger Caspians were trained with the help of Rana and for the second year, we participated to the Caspian virtual show.

Caspian stallions who lives near to Carcassone were confronted to a severe pruritic dermatitis. There were infested with *Neotrombilula Automnalis*. We did not know this parasitic infestation and the lesions that it could damage. We would like to share this case report with the Caspian Community.



Roxane Mirine, a Taloche
female line, training lesson*

Neotrombicula Autumnalis

Name : *Neotrombicula Autumnalis* or « harvest mite » or « automne chigger »

Epidemiology : Autumn

The adult is free living and feeds on plants, whereas the larvae may attack humans and horses. Larvae release cellular digestive enzymes and cause allergic reactions and itching. After feeding, the larvae drop off the horse

Clinic :

- prurit & itching lesions
- on close inspection, the orange larvae can be seen
- located where the skin is **thin** (head, elbow, stifle, pastern,...)

Diagnosis : Scotch-test, visible on Optical Microscope

Treatment : Acaricidal lotions



OM :

The second **Caspian Virtual Show** was held 'live' on 7th November 2021 again attracting hundreds of entries from all across the world. Below are the class winners.

All classes can be found on YouTube under 'Caspian Virtual Show 2021 Class xx(class number).



Class 1



In hand Stallion or Gelding 4yrs
and over

Berjis Arad



Class 2



In Hand Mare 4yrs and over,
may have foal at foot.

Asri Mahnaz



Class 3



Youngstock, colt or filly under 4yrs

Roxane Stateira



Class 4



Part Bred Caspian

Bytham Abigail

Virtual Show 2021 class winners cont'...



Class 5
Young Handler – under 16yrs

Kohlt Klassen



Class 6
Ridden – Pure of Part Bred

Millie Bowler – Contessa Feysul



Class 7
Best Jump (Video)

Rosmear Elske



Class 8
Dressage

Dra Zola





Class 9
Best Foal
Bytham Phillamina and
Bathleyhills Amenable



Class 10
Cutest Foal
Spark Persepolis, Spark Kiaar,
Spark Persia



Class 11
Driven
Hopstone Mustapha & Hopstone
Chahar Shambe



Class 12
Action Shot
Babak, Rakhshan, Shoteh, Kiana





Class 13
Best Jump (photo)
Hayley Davidson (x Welsh)



Class 14
Handsome male
Cascadia Sham



Class 15
Prettiest Mare
Elsa





Class 16
Best Turned Out



Berjis Ghazaleh, foal Taranne.

Wearing the traditional dress of
Gilan/Mazandaran, home of the Caspian.



Class 17
Fancy Dress



Henden Aljaba



Class 18
Veteran 18yrs +



Runnymede Felfel
(aged 20)

Response to the Virtual show by Iranian entries –Instagram

Thank you to Ateshé for the translation.



Entries from Iran Shine at the Caspian Virtual Horse Show organised by the CHS.

All the members of the Caspian Conservation Society who participated in the International Caspian Virtual Horse Show from Iran did well.

The Caspian International Horse Show 2021 was held virtually this year by the British Caspian Horse Society due to covid restrictions, and Caspian breeders and riding clubs from around the world participated.

The purpose of these competitions is to showcase the sports capabilities and inherent beauty of the Caspian horse, as well as to encourage producers and owners to protect and conserve this valuable Iranian breed.

In the category of stallions and geldings over four years old, Borjis Arad from the cultural, sports and breeding complex of Part Horse won the class. Part Stud took third place as well with Shabahang and fifth place was awarded to Persian Firooz Alborz from Gisom farm.

Burjis Arad also won the third place in the most handsome stallion class.

In the category of mares over four years old, Asri Mahnaz from the Part Stud won the class and fourth place went to Paridar Padna from Elena Farm.

In the category of young mares, Borjis Bijar took fourth place under the ownership of Gisum farm.

In the dressage class, Isan Mehdinejad won fourth place with her Caspian horse from Gisum Farm.

In the category of best handler under 16, Isan Mehdinejad from Gisum Farm with Persian horse Firooz Alborz won the third place.

In the category of the best foal Elena Jana from Elena Farm was third.

Sardar 2 from Gisum Farm was fourth for best action photo.

In class 16 Ms. Toloo Asadi won with Borjis Ghazaleh from Borjis farm.

Elsa from Elena Farm also won the title of prettiest mare.

Reputable Iranian horse breeders include horses with Borjis prefix from Borjis farm in Guilan province, the Asri prefix from The Caspian Horse Genetic Preservation Complex in Guilan, the Paridar prefix from Paridar Mazandaran farm, the Elena prefix belonging to Elena Amol farm and Persian Firooz prefix from the Firouz farm.

In total, all Iranian participants in this event shone in these competitions.

The Caspian Conservation Society is a non-governmental, non-profit organization established to register and preserve Caspian horses in Iran, and its members include breeders, owners and enthusiasts of the Caspian horse from all over the country.

JUNIOR SPOTLIGHT

Name	Poppy Ward
Horse's Name	April but we call her Apricot
Colour	Bay
Age	12
Mare/Gelding/ Stallion	Mare
How long have you had him?	4 months since Aug 21
Ridden/Driven/ Both?	Ridden
Carrots or polos?	Both of course!
Long hack/ Lesson or show?	Long walks on foot at the moment
Do you attend Pony Club?	Not yet but would love to.
Does he jump?	No
Does he enjoy dressage?	Not tried it yet.
Does he enjoy showing? In hand or Ridden?	Yes, in hand.
Do they have favourite horse friend?	Rea her Sister and my mums horse Kalise.
What's your favourite TV programme?	Free Rein on Netflix.
Do you prefer Chocolate or cake?	Chocolate
What do you like to do when not with your horse?	Play with the goats and play pony club with my friends .

Poppy & Bytham April



Mum says - Apricot and her sister Rea joined our family in summer they are such beautiful girls. Apricot has such a cheeky character and has got such a wonderful bond with Poppy, she is 12 however she looks like a foal she is so small and slight.

Poppy and Apricot spend hours running round the field with each other they are both as cheeky as each other!

We are very excited to get practising for in hand shows next year !

JUNIOR SPOTLIGHT

Name	Kohlt
Horse's Name	Sheba
Colour	Brown
Age	22
Mare/Gelding/ Stallion	Mare
How long have you had her?	6 months
Ridden/Driven/ Both?	Ridden
Carrots or polos?	Carrots
Long hack/ Lesson or show?	Go on trails
Do you attend Pony Club?	We are in a local riding club, but no Pony Club
Does she jump?	I don't really know
What's the highest jumped?	80cm
Have you been to any shows this year?	Good. The Caspian Horse Show. We placed 3 rd in the Ridden and 1 st in Child Handler.
Does she enjoy dressage	Not Sure
Does she enjoy showing?	Yes
Inhand or Ridden?	Ridden
Does she have a favourite horsey friend?	Yes, a baby Caspian.
Do you prefer Chocolate or cake?	Cake
What's your favourite TV programme?	I don't watch much TV
What do you like to do when not with your horse?	Ride skidoo's

Kohlt & Texasas
Bathsheba



Some beautiful entries in this years Caspian Virtual Show led me to ask
‘Who are North Point Caspians?’

Here Bailey Klassen tells us more....



North Point Caspians

About Us

We are a busy family with 3 young boys ages 1, 4 and 6. We live in a small but vibrant community in Northern Alberta, Canada. We never set out to breed, but the Caspians have become a huge part of our lives and our family. After we brought our first Caspian home we started our search for another young Caspian to train but couldn't find one. We were able to find an older CHSA registered mare and brought her home – Kermanshah Azarak. She is kind but confident and the lead mare in our herd today. If you're looking for someone to enjoy your morning coffee with – she's the best company to keep.

Shortly after buying her, we found two purebred Caspian stallions for sale in Kentucky, USA – Kristull Jumanji and RHR Concerto. Over the next two years many things came together to bring us the herd that now calls “North Point Caspians” home. We couldn't have anticipated where one Caspian could lead to, but we are grateful.

Our Goals

Our goal is to produce competitive, high-quality ICS registered Caspians. Our goal is to see each Caspian that leaves our farm to be headed in a direction that they will excel in. Whether they are heading into gymkhana/trail riding, into the show arena or in front of a cart – that they will be off to a good start and have the mindset and athletic ability to do it all. Like our kids, they are a piece of sunshine in our days – and if we can keep our herd thriving and others the opportunity to own and ride a Caspian we will have succeeded.

Our Year

2021 was a really great year for us. We started off the year combing through bloodlines of a small purebred Caspian herd dispersal. We chose 4 new horses that were well matched for our breeding program and started making plans to bring them home. In May we made the 1896km trip and we couldn't be happier with our choices.

Our Caspians all had a busy summer and fall. Our stallions and mares had a busy breeding season. We can't wait for the spring 2022 foals to start hitting the ground. After breeding was over, Stallion Kade spent the remaining of his summer in Southern Alberta with our trainers and took in his first show in August in Olds, Alberta. He placed 1st in the stallion open and 6th place in the in-hand open trail. It was a first for us all and we learned lots and had fun! We couldn't have asked for a better start for Kade.

Our new filly spent the first couple days into our local Horsecamp and represented the Caspian breed through a local breed presentation. We had very hot weather (+42C) and the remaining of the camp was postponed. She then spent the rest of her summer in training and lightly started for an exciting 2022 year with our kids.



Our 3 yearling fillies are coming along really well. They're all halter trained, good with their feet and trailer loading. They have been playing around with obstacles. They are all so curious and full of life but gentle and level headed. Jumanji and the boys decided to be Superhero's for Halloween this year. Jumanji is always such a good sport and they all dress up every year.



We had a blast with the Virtual Caspian Horse Show entries this year. Our son Kohlt and Texas Bathsheba placed 3rd in the Ridden (Class 6) and 1st in Child Handler U16. A 2021 stud colt of ours; "Northpoint Sky's the Limit" placed 2nd for best foal. In the stallion class Kade placed 1st, Concerto placed 4th and Jumanji 5th out of 30 beautiful horses. Our son Cohen, Jumanji and Kohlt placed 2nd for best dressed. Thank you so much to everyone who spent time planning and all the work that goes in to make it possible. We loved watching the show.

We have about 1ft of snow so far. Our 3 stallions live together for the winter and are all settling into their new pasture. The winters can be hard for Jumanji and Concerto but they are starting to get accustomed to our winters here. They are fed grain through the winter to keep them in good condition. This years babies are counting down the days until weaning. Otherwise, the mares are all doing well and everyone is turned out and eating hay. We might see who will pull a sleigh for us this winter.

Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year to everyone and their Caspians – From all of us at North Point!



Northpoint Caspians, Photo Gallery

Thystle and Peanut, our Miracle Foal (Edcombe Amethyst and Edcombe Jasper)

By Rebecca Mann

Last December we lost our old mare Luca, so when we found out that two of our mares were in foal to our stallion, Mazda, after three years of trying, we were delighted to have something positive to look forward to.

Then disaster struck again. I went out one morning to find Thystle on three legs with one hind sticking out at an abnormal angle. She had slipped and done the splits, a common injury in dairy cows but rare in horses. X-rays showed nothing, although later the conclusion was that she had fractured her pelvis. We got her into a stable on a non slip surface, and box rest began. A blood test confirmed the foal was still alive so it was a waiting game for the next five months. Thystle improved, but was still very lame and we had to be very careful that she didn't slip.

Fast forward to mid May and three weeks before her foal was due Thystle began foaling early one morning. At first I thought she was colicking, but it was soon obvious that she was contracting, and her milk had come in. And then, after a couple of hours, it all stopped. A visit from the vet, and a scan showed the foal still very much alive and we weren't too worried as it was a bit early.

On the 28th May Thystle started foaling again but it was stop start all day, with several visits from the vet. She finally managed to give birth to a healthy colt foal in the early evening with a little help from the vet.

And then more problems. He took a while to get sucking, and we realised that the colostrum had gone as she had produced it three weeks earlier. And she had mastitis. An IgG test showed a very low antibody count which meant that unless something was done he would not survive. A hunt for colostrum proved futile, and with Thystle's injury on top of the assistance with foaling, things were getting desperately expensive. But help was at hand.



My daughter Rosie, who owns Thystle, worked at a farm veterinary practice, and one of their vets came to the rescue. We took blood from one of my geldings, Nyasan Mufasa, who behaved perfectly, and collected plasma from him in alpaca bags. Then the plasma was given to the foal. It was guesswork and his next IgG count was moderate, which was not ideal but much better than before.

So Peanut was none the worse from his ordeal and has thrived. He is six months old now and out of danger from infection. We kept a very close eye on him, and he has not been turned away on the hill as would normally happen with our foals. Thystle has also recovered, She is a very good mother and is now sound. She had some acupuncture from another of Rosie's friends which really helped her, although we have been advised not to breed from her again because of her injury.

We count ourselves very lucky, the outcome could have been so different, and I don't think any of us really believed that we would end up with a live foal.

Our other mare Cassima, produced a healthy colt foal a month later with no complications and they are thriving.

Monach Farm Riding Stables – 2021

January 2021, England is in a national lockdown, which in all honesty was probably psychologically easier than the dreaded tier system. 41 ponies, no income, no lessons & although promised to come no sign of any government support.

Unlike the spring lockdown of 2020 with grass poking through & warmer weather, we were in the middle of a very wet winter. Here at Monach we are on a very unique, sticky blue clay soil, that depending on the time of year is either a pond, a skating rink or concrete.

No chance of turn out & holiday for the equine residents as they were all stabled.

My fantastic team once again pulled out all the stops to maintain the care & continue the schooling of all those that needed it. A lot of lungeing experience was gained this Spring.

We had been lucky in 2020 in that the spring lockdown for us had only been for about 7 weeks before we could reopen slowly. This time there was no end in sight, so we again set up a sponsorship scheme & a Just Giving page as many of our clients wanted to help us get through. As a result of being part of a couple of Facebook groups for riding school owners, I was aware that that this situation was also being faced by many riding schools across the country and so contacted Horse & Hound magazine to raise awareness of the plight of riding stables, especially those of us without a livery element.

They wrote a really good piece that was published both online & hard copy, & whilst we were the focus of the piece, I tried hard to emphasise that people should support their local stables.

However, Lockdown, was not a period of rest, we used our non teaching time to do a lot of sorting & organising. Those boxes of old unused tack, the drawers full of spare cheek pieces & noseband, the trunk of saddlecloths not fit for the public but not quite tatty enough to throw out. The rugs all got sorted, every pony has a fleece or cooler, a stable rug & a turnout rug so with over 40 ponies on site, that's over 120 rugs in regular use in the winter.

Lockdown meant that our builder friend was finally able to demolish the old portacabin office come shop and replace it with a bespoke building that includes a viewing area. We were unable to use it fully until early July, but are very pleased with it.

Spring also saw us concreting our top yard, which has helped incredibly with keeping everything cleaner & easier to work in. This was partly funded by a grant as it included a rainwater harvesting system.

Being an outdoor sport we were very lucky to be 1 of the first businesses to be able to reopen at the end of March & we were fully booked from the start. For the first few weeks we were unable to allow parents to watch the lessons and then it was limited to 1 adult per child from mid May until July.

The stables have remained incredibly busy all year, with lesson spaces over subscribed most weeks. We are averaging 175 clients a week & our pony mornings in the school holidays remain ever popular usually being booked out within 24 hours of advertising them.

We also ran 2 adult camps & 7 weeks of summer camps

Monach cont'

With the summer holidays over we launched into a busy autumn term, October half term & now the Christmas holidays are fully booked for all events.

The equine team at Monach have worked hard this year but Swallow, Casper & Meteor are still very well & healthy. Swallow struggled a bit in lockdown as he is such a people pony, he really missed the children & visitors.

Aware of the fact that some of our smaller native ponies are now in semi or full retirement aged 28 plus, and that our 3 Caspians are all around the 20 years mark, in late spring, we set about looking for some new ponies.

In July we took a day trip to Jane Holderness Roddams yard to collect 3 young Caspians, Jimmy, Holloway Aslan (5), Bobby, Holloway Manoush(4) & Matilda (Bathleyhills Amenable)(10), from Harry Thirlby. All 3 are now in training ready to be used in the late spring of 2022.

Being very busy with the school & Farm the training of our young ponies is often a slow & steady process. We always give new arrivals a month or so to settle in & adjust to what can be a very bustling yard.

There are a team of 6 regular staff, and 12 helpers & volunteers. In addition to the Riding School we are a working farm with a herd of 25 dairy goats, who are milked twice a day, a flock of 30 sheep and a herd of 6 Dexter cows.

Making a safe reliable riding school pony takes longer than just starting & backing as you would a pony for a capable private child rider who is going to be the only jockey several days a week.

For lessons we take children from 4 years old, and our biggest new rider intake is for children aged between 6 & 8. Most children ride with us once a week or once a fortnight.

Our ponies have to learn to be ridden by many different sizes & shapes of children, some with natural balance & athleticism, many without. They also have to be completely unflappable & unaffected by things around the arena, the granny with an umbrella, the baby in a pushchair, the bored sibling kicking a chair, the noise of a parent watching something on their phone.

With the restrictions of lockdown, zoom school & the changes of the last 2 years we are finding that many of these children are lacking both in confidence to try something new, and the resilience to cope if something isn't perfect. So it is more important than ever that our lead rein & first ridden ponies are as perfect as they can be. They must also learn to stand like statues for grooming by small children who have never used a brush, to not shake their heads with fumbling attempts to get bridles on for the first time & to walk slowly without deviation from stable to arena for children who lack any handling or directional skills.



News From France (Rosmear)

Although there were no pure bred Rosmear Caspian foals this year there was one part bred, R. Tarique (Morning Star) born to Elske (Costessa Siyroun x Black Opal – arabian) sired by the arabian Esta Chezir. In his first 3 weeks he had experienced military helicopters on night exercise, military jets flying at very low level over our property, hunters shooting in the woods adjacent to our fields, rain, hail, myriad photos, and our tractor cleaning the field. He should be well prepared for most eventualities !

Tarique will be the first Part Bred Caspian to be born since the French National Registration Entity included part bred Caspians in the existing pure bred caspian registration agreement with the CHS. (This agreement has at present survived the catastrophic effects of Brexit.) This means that, at 23 years of age, his mother can now be properly registered as a Part Bred Caspian !! You can see her as the winner of Class 7 jumping and a photo of Tarique in Classes 4, 10 & 18.

There was sadness when we lost our grey mare R Batool just the day after her 30th birthday. Batool was the first Caspian to be born in The Netherlands where her dam, Hopstone Lily along with R. Koochooloo and ourselves were living prior to moving to France. She produced no female foals but by luck, produced the chestnut stallion R Ashok who has sired 4 males & 1 female. Her breeding was rather curtailed by the restrictive registration rules that existed here in the past. (The photo is of her in her prime)

We were happy to participate in the virtual show again this year, managing entries in 15 classes with no repeat videos or photos. The only sad part was that 2 video submissions of a 5 year old French young handler were not successfully delivered by WeTransfer. This was her very first time leading a horse by herself.

Finally, Siyroun continues as if life is eternal ! He has to keep going for 5 more months to be able to celebrate his 40th birthday ! (For those that do not already know, he has his own Facebook page "Costessa Siyroun" that also includes some articles of historic and pedigree interest).



CHS PERFORMANCE POINTS

RESULTS 2021

Elizabeth Webster



My appreciation goes to those of you who took their Caspians and part-breds out and about this year and especially to those who competed with them and were placed. There are so many different ways in which you can get your Caspian seen and talked about and I have received a very promising set of returns this year. It has been a strange time for us all and although last year was a no-no for many horse-lovers, who preferred to stay at home or found nothing to go to, this year has been rather better and most events have taken place.

So what have I learned from this year's points cards, the first year in which the revised system and cards have really been used?

Firstly, it's obvious that we could do with more of you using your Caspians. Let's hope that next year will present a more encouraging atmosphere in which to compete with them. Our usual Ashby classes were once again replaced by the Virtual Caspian Show, which was so bravely and ably run by CHS Council members, particularly Nichola Waddicor, whose idea it was in the first place and who must have spent many hours pulling it together. Although it could not be the same as being at a real show, it nevertheless attracted a lot of entries, many from overseas and, notably, from Iranian owners. This can only be a Really Good Thing!

Congratulations to all who were placed and thanks to all who took part in the spirit of the Caspian Performance Scheme. There was some confusion about the attendance points allotted, especially when differentiating between either County/National/International/ CHS classes or more accessible riding club or local events. Points were sometimes either not added at all or sometimes over-added! Even after being corrected they still look impressive!

However, after double-checking that all cards were allotted points correctly, we *do* have some impressive results.

Perhaps it is worth mentioning here that gaining points is only part of the aim behind the points system. The main aim, which is to get Caspians out into the public eye and show their abilities, has been amply achieved by the people who returned points cards. I would like to thank those who took the trouble to do so this year and wish them well in the events they will take their Caspians to in 2022. Good Luck everybody and I look forward to seeing some even more impressive results in a year's time!

Results: 1st Costessa Feysul, Pure-bred bay Caspian gelding owned by Vicki Shortis, kept by Penny Walster and ridden by young Millie Bowler, who between them achieved the amazing total of 258 points. Feysul, usually known as Monkey, has been ridden by Millie at everything from Pony Club camps, rallies and Hunt Rides to PES, Vale View and Riverside Dressage events as well as Training days and of course, the CHS Virtual Caspian Show. He was well placed in many events and has shown how a Caspian can give his little rider much confidence and fun. Well done Millie and Monkey! Congratulations to all concerned and keep up the good work.



2nd: Kineton Khoja, with an amazing 229 points.

This little chestnut Caspian gelding, 15 years old, was sold during the summer to Jeff Osbourne once Amelia Waddicor was no longer able to compete with him due to her new job. The training and sheer hard work that Amelia, her driving partner Morag and mother Nichola put into Khoja led to astonishing success in the field of competitive cross-country driving. Now the amazing Khoja has turned his hoof to the speedy and demanding world of scurry driving. Having been driven as a single by Amelia, he is now one of a pair being driven by Alison Osbourne. Their results speak volumes about the adaptability and guts of the Caspian. This year, in less than half a season, he has achieved an astonishing 229 points. Heartiest congratulations to Alison and Khoja of course, but also to the Waddicor family for their input. If this is what Alison and Khoja can do in a half season, what could they achieve in a year?!



Photo: Paul Orchard

3rd: Lanhill Antimay, 12 year old bay mare owned and shown in-hand by Mrs Angela Leadbetter. Angela has shown the lovely May at her local Horse Club and the Virtual Caspian Show and has achieved 13 points. She has made sure that May is seen out and about looking her best and I applaud her for that. Well done and keep it up. Perhaps try a few more events next year and I'm sure she will do well.



Caspian Posters & Cards

High quality poster prints from the 50th anniversary calendar. **Would make a fantastic Present!** Packs of 5 beautiful cards are also for sale.

Available from Jane.

£5 for the first poster (inc UK postage and substantial packaging).

£2.50 for each additional poster as part of the same order.

Pack of 5 cards with envelopes, £4 (+ postage).

Please e-mail your choice(s) to Janchoydam@aol.com or Ruth chs.registrar@dial.pipex.com with subject line CHS Calendar/cards

Payment by PayPal please!



'The Caspian' 2021



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MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Please contact Sheilagh Nisbet (contact details on last page)
NB: Membership is valid from 1st April to the following 31st March. SO=Standing Order. There is now a £10 Joining Fee, after which your subscription will commence each April. New members joining after 1st January need not pay the following April 1st but should resume in future years.

MEMBERSHIP TYPES:

<i>Voting Membership (V) Non-Voting membership(NV)</i>	
LIFE(V): One Payment	UK £175 Overseas £200
ANNUAL UK (V)	£17 cheque or £15 (SO)
Family (UK) (2 <i>Voting adults + up to 2 children below 18 at same address</i>)	£27 cheque or £25 (SO)
JUNIOR (NV)	£9 cheque or £7 (SO)
OVERSEAS (V)	£20 cheque or £18 (SO)
OVERSEAS (NV)	£12 cheque or £10 (SO)

SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Register young-stock at reduced rates
- Opportunity to be on Council
- Vote at Annual General Meeting
- Include your stock on stallion and sales lists for free
- Reduced Entry Fees at Breed Shows
- Receive annual Magazine
- Take part in Performance Points Scheme
- Qualify for a Special CHS Rosette when competing
- Qualify for CHS awards

REGISTRATION DISPUTES

The Society is only a registration authority and cannot decide ownership or financial disputes, which are matters for the courts. When buying or leasing a horse or having a mare covered, do make sure that the paperwork is correct before proceeding. It is far easier to get it right at the outset than have an acrimonious dispute later.

TRANSFERS

Selling your Caspian? It is a legal requirement for the new owner to transport the horse with its passport when moving it to its new home and then to send the passport to the Passport Issuing Organisation (*or PIO*) i.e. the CHS for UK registered Caspians, to be amended within 30 days of change of owner. Please return the Registration Certificate for amendment at the same time.

STALLION LICENSING

CHS requires both pure and part-bred stallions to hold a valid licence **BEFORE** covering a mare. The pure-bred offspring of an unlicensed stallion will be put into the X-section of the studbook, as will all its descendants.

For the standard (vet only) licence: Please apply to the CHS Registrar for an application form, to be completed and returned with the £15 fee. A CHS-approved vet must inspect the horse.

Stallion Assessment to the Breed Standard (BSA) is also available for licenced stallions – or pre-licencing for the advisory purposes. This can be done free of charge at Ashby Show if requested before hand or for home visits, expenses will be payable. Contact Ruth Staines (Registrar).

FOAL REGISTRATION AND PASSPORTS

Whether pure or part-bred, DEFRA requires that a foal should be registered, micro-chipped and receive a passport by the time it is 6 months old. DNA parent verification is now mandatory for pure-bred registrations, which at least 40 pulled mane or tail hairs, *with follicles attached*, will be required with the application. A unique stud prefix is mandatory, finalised *before* registration with the Registrar.

IMPORTANT: Breeders and owners please note the EU, DEFRA and the Society make changes to Rules and Regulations from time to time. Updated CHS R&R can be found on the website. Please do not use old forms – request up-to-date forms from the Registrar. Please refer to R&R and Registrar BEFORE taking any actions which might prejudice your paperwork – this can cause problems in later years.

REGISTRATION FEES – INCLUSIVE OF PASSPORT

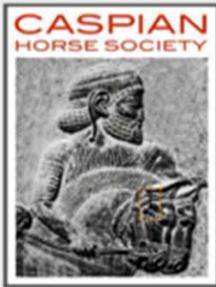
	Members	Non-members
Pure-bred:		
Colts up to 6 months	£15	£29.50
Fillies up to 6 months	£20	£39.50
Colts 6-24 months	£25	£49.50
Fillies 6-24 months	£35	£69.50
Part-bred:		
Colts up to 6 months	£15	£29.50
Fillies up to 6 months	£15	£29.50
Colts 6-24 months	£25	£49.50
Fillies 6-24 months	£25	£49.50

CHARGES:

Register your unique Prefix	£28
Standard Stallion Licence	£15
BSA: Inspectors' expenses only	No fee
*DNA verification for registration	£35
Duplicate Registration Certificate	£8
Duplicate passport	£15
Transfer of ownership	£5
Changes (eg: gelding/colour)	£5
Change of address	No fee

Documents will be posted to UK addresses by 1st class post unless Special Delivery is requested and paid for in advance. Additional overseas postal costs, both standard and special delivery, will be added to invoices.

(*Subject to exchange rate fluctuations)



CASPIAN HORSE SOCIETY
Registered Charity No. 1076026

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Donations are always welcome!

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