

The intertwined Bonyl history of horses and Golden Retrievers written by Liane van der Hoven

Bonyl (meaning “Upper Nile”) was registered by my late father, S van Wyk van der Hoven, as the name of his Arabian horse stud during the 1970s. I took the reins of the stud in 2003. In 2004 we bought a Golden Retriever, Honey for our then 4 years old son. It was the start of a long love affair with Golden Retrievers and Crabbet Arabians. My childhood environment, equine and academic studies all honed and developed my faculty for discerning a good animal. Bonyl, at the Southern Tip of Africa, has its roots in two seminal events in the British horses and hound world of the 1870s, and a meeting point, a century later in 1979...

The Arabian horse makes up the lion’s share of the British “Thoroughbred”. Lady Anne Blunt (the only granddaughter of Lord Byron) married Wilfred Scawen Blunt, and together they imported Arabian horses during the 1870s, from the Levant deserts to their Crabbet Park Stud in Sussex. Their goal was to preserve the nature-forged Arabian horse building blocks that had become the “Thoroughbred” horse. The Crabbet stud dominated world Arabian breeding for 75 years, from 1870 to 1945. The Blunts’ only child, Lady Wentworth, took over the reins and so, like Bonyl too, it became a second generation stud. The significance of this is that it takes uninterrupted focus over many years to manifest breeding objectives meaningfully, because animal improvement is such a very slow process. For instance, horse generation intervals are around seven years.

Lady Wentworth was a passionate author who felt compelled to record her insider knowledge. The illustrations used here are gratefully taken from *The Authentic Arabian Horse* and *Thoroughbred Racing Stock*.

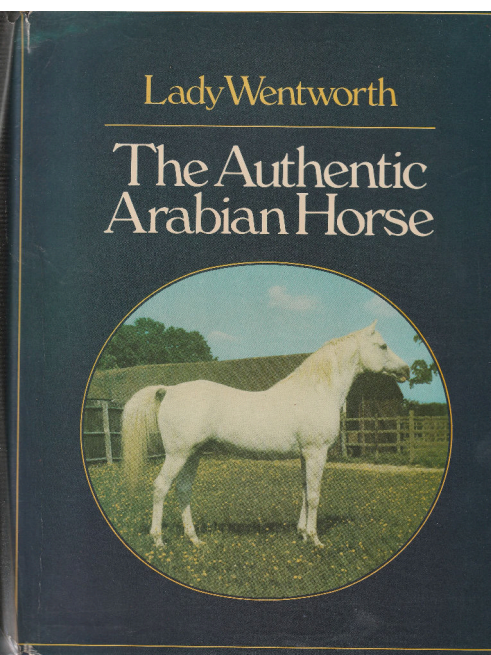




Wilfred Scawen Blunt with Saluki



Lady Wentworth with mares and Pomeranian



Bonyl Arabians is linebred to the magnificent Raktha.

The Authentic Arabian Horse, pictured above, was published by George Allen & Unwin Ltd in 1945. In response to a world wide demand. It was reprint in 1962 and finally in 1979. Founder of the Crabbet Organization UK (crabbetorganization.org), Caroline Sussex, summarises the motivation for the organisation's conservation efforts as follows: "The Crabbet Arabian stud was one of, if not the most influential, breeding programmes in the development of the Arabian breed world wide. Horses with these bloodlines continue to be some of the top performers in the ridden world of open competition despite huge changes in the world of Arabian breeding and having... the characteristics of toughness, beauty, athleticism and train-ability that the harsh desert environment refined in the breed are an important heritage that should not be lost."



End of season sale at Crabbet Stud 1945

My father spent much time in London during the 1970s, working in The City by day and spending leisure hours in magnificent bookshops. Foyles of Charing Cross Road, London is the grandfather of independent bookshops with 200 000 titles under their flagship shop roof. It was here, in 1979 that SvW picked up a freshly printed copy of *The Authentic Arabian Horse* and was smitten. He was a lover of time-honoured pursuits like hunting, fishing, fine animal breeding, archaeology, history, rare plants and old Cape furniture, which he collected. It is not surprising that his passion for the Arabian horse endured. In 2003 SvW van der Hoven passed the horses, as well as Lady Wentworth's book, by then a precious heirloom, to me, a cultural historian and educator.



The Bonyl Arabian stud has been a member in good standing of the South African Arabian Breeder's Association since 1981. At 43 years of age, it is one of the oldest Arabian studs in South Africa. The foals that were bred and not kept to rejuvenate Bonyl, were offered to the few South African Arabians studs still in possession of pure Crabbet lines. We have bred six generations in 43 years. Bonyl Arabians is a conservation stud, rather than a commercial one. We choose to live close to our animals, as they are part of the family.



REGISTRASIESERTIFIKAAT
Arabierperd Genootskap van Suid-Afrika
 Hiermee word gesertifiseer dat hierdie HINGES aangeneem is vir inskrywing in die Arabierperd Genootskap van Suid-Afrika



REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE
The Arab Horse Society of South Africa
 This is to certify that this STALLION has been accepted for entry in the Arab Horse Society of South Africa

Naam Name: **BONYL MERKABA (ZA)**
 Rekenaar Nr Computer No.: **0013236542**
 Registrasie Nr Registration No.: **31950**
 Deel Volume: **41**

Gebore Born: **18/09/2015** Gradering Grading: **SP 90**
 Strain: **KEHEILAN DAJANI**

DNS DNA: **Q1600024**

Skyfie Chip: []

VAAR SIRE: **BONYL HADIYA NEGM 17865 (Vol. 35)**

MOER DAM: **WAYFILLAN LEDA 4847 (Vol. 18)**

HALLIFORD SHAMMAR 2981 (Vol. 13)	RINGMASTER 328 (Vol.2) [SASB*573]	ORION
BONYL SHAKIRA PAULI 7206 (Vol. 22)	BAHARI ELFIN SHADOW 637 (Vol.3)	RABIYA
JERICO MARCO 3060 (Vol. 14)	BONYL GEVONDEN ROOS 5440 (Vol. 19)	SHALWAN 77/31 (Vol.1) [SASB*220]
JERICO GAZELLA 702 (Vol.3)	BONYL SHARENA RHEE 4048 (Vol. 16)	TIMARIE GREY SHADOW 105 (Vol.1)
	NAFAL 1912 (Vol. 10) [SASB*3860/AVS*3]	MANDALA JOKTAN 4387 (Vol.17)
	JERICO MIZMAH 1278 (Vol.5)	BONYL GEVONDEN RIZA 2621 (Vol.13)
	BARABAZ 327 (Vol.2) [AHSB*5048]	DEBLOS SALLAVAT 719 (Vol.4)
	JERICO GALIETTA 357 (Vol.2)	SHARENA SHAKIRA 767 (Vol.4)
		NADEJNI
		FLANKA
		BARABAZ 327 (Vol.2) [AHSB*5048]
		JERICO MARIETTA 435 (Vol.2)
		STARGARD
		RAZALANA
		VIDIKO HAROUN 179 (Vol.1)
		JERICO JOSEPPA 158 (Vol.1)



Teler Breeder: **(0561027) ME. L. VAN DER HOVEN**
POSTNET SUITE 69, PRIVAATSAK X16, HERMANUS, 7200

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 LIFETIME REGISTRATION

STAMBOEK
 STUD BOOK

KORREK GESERTIFISEER
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The Arab Horse Society of South Africa
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Naam Name: **BONYL RAKTHA FARAH (ZA)**
 Rekenaar Nr Computer No.: **0012762308**
 Registrasie Nr Registration No.: **16042**
 Deel Volume: **33**

Gebore Born: **03/08/2009** Gradering Grading: **SP 90**
 Strain: **KEHEILEH DAJANIEH**

DNS DNA: **Q901513**

Skyfie Chip: []

VAAR SIRE: **LATIGO SERRAMOR 9684 (Vol.26)**

MOER DAM: **BONYL GEVONDEN RIZA 2621 (Vol. 13)**

COUNT AMOR 643 (Vol.3) [SASB*1229]	COUNT RAPELLO	COUNT DORSZ [AHR*14398/GSB*1]
OSIRIS SERA-LEE 2305 (Vol.11)	AMORELLA	RAFEENA
BONYL TOEL 1992 (Vol.10)	OSIRIS BEAUMONT 1108 (Vol.5)	GENERAL GRANT [AHSB*1083/GSB*1]
GEVONDEN ROSE OF SHARON 161 (Vol.1)	OLFORD BERA-JANE 388 (Vol.2)	DOMATELLA
	ORDEP RASCHID 984 (Vol.5)	SILVIDO FATJI 350 (Vol.2)
	SUDARIK JULLIETTE 1102 (Vol.5)	DARIK THING-OF-BEAUTY 143 (Vol.1)
	RAKTHA ROSE 41/31 (Vol.1)	RAKTHA SCHA 56/31 (Vol.1)
	RAKTHA INDIAN FLOWER 83.31 (Vol.1)	OLFORD SERABELLE 128 (Vol.1)
		RULENE EL RASCHID 252 (Vol.2)
		METRA ROWENA 453 (Vol.2)
		JAMANI GARETH 408 (Vol.2)
		SUDARIK NADINA 515 (Vol.3)
		RAKTHA (GB) 21/29 (Vol.1) [88]
		ROSINA 44.31 (Vol.1) [SASB*78]
		RAKTHA (GB) 21/29 (Vol.1) [88]
		INDIAN PEARL 43.31 (Vol.1) [SASB*67/GSB*131]



Teler Breeder: **(0561027) ME. L. VAN DER HOVEN**
POSTNET SUITE 69, PRIVAATSAK X16, HERMANUS, 7200



(Parentage Verified)

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 Datum van uitreiking Date of issue **05/05/2014**

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REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE
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Naam Name BONYL ROSA-LEE (ZA)

Gebore Born 18/07/2008 **Gradering Grading** SP 90

DNS DNA Q900323



Skyfie Chip 953010000145479

VAAR SIRE LATIGO SERRAMOR 9684 (Vol.26)

MOER DAM BONYL ROOS VAN SARON 6678 (Vol.21)

Strain HAMDANIEH SIMRIEH

COUNT AMOR 643 (Vol.3)
[SASB*1229]

OSIRIS SERA-LEE 2305 (Vol.11)

BONYL GEVONDEN ROOS 5440 (Vol.19)

BONYL SHARENA RHEE 4048 (Vol.16)

Rekenaar Nr Computer No. 0012747267

Registrasie Nr Registration No. 15989

Deel Volume 33

COUNT RAPELLO

AMORELLA

OSIRIS BEAUMONT 1108 (Vol.5)

OLFORD SERA-JANE 388 (Vol.2)

MANDALA JOKTAN 4387 (Vol.17)

BONYL GEVONDEN RIZA 2621 (Vol.13)

DEBLOS SALLAVAT 719 (Vol.4)

SHARENA SHAKIRA 707 (Vol.4)

COUNT DORSAZ [AHR*14388/GSB*1]

RAFEENA

GENERAL GRANT [AHSB*1053/GSB*1]

DOMATELLA

SILVIDO FATJI 350 (Vol.2)

DARIK THING-OF-BEAUTY 143 (Vol.1)

RAKTHA SCHA 56/31 (Vol.1)

OLFORD SERABELLE 128 (Vol.1)

SHARI-SILIC SAFIRE 2377 (Vol.12)

MANDALA NOAH 2894 (Vol.13)

BONYL TOEL 1992 (Vol.10)

GEVONDEN ROSE OF SHARON 161 (Vol.1)

VLINKFONTEIN REGAL 227 (Vol.2)

SUDARIK SURAN 262 (Vol.2)

JAMANI SHABANI 191 (Vol.2)

SHARENA SUSAN 545 (Vol.3)



Teler Breeder (0561027) ME. L. VAN DER HOVEN
 POSTNET SUITE 69, PRIVAATSAK X16,
 HERMANUS, 7200

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Datum van inspeksie

Date of inspection

Datum van uitreiking

Date of issue

21/07/2014

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The second seminal UK event happened in 1872, with the birth of Lord Tweedmouth's special litter of Spaniel out-crosses, at Guisachen Estate in the Scottish Highlands. To celebrate the event, Lord Tweedmouth commissioned the artist Gourlay Stell, to completed a large oil painting in of his eldest daughter, the Hon Mary Marjoribanks, on the magnificent Thoroughbred, "Sunflower" with the yet un-nomenclated "Golden Retriever", called "Cow Slip". This magnificent painting holds particular significance for me in three contexts: as an artist, cultural historian as well as breeder. In addition in my personal "pedigree" I am a descendent of Henry Knox, a Scottish 1820 settler to South Africa. This part of the Knox clan hailed from Dumfries and Galloway near the English border. "Knox" crops up in the Bonyl Golden Retriever pedigrees as homage to Scottish origins.



Golden Retriever Club of Scotland: GUISACHAN GOLDEN GATHERING 2023

Horses-and-hounds go together like horse-and-carriage: Wilfred Blunt bred Arabians and Salukis, Lady Wentworth bred Arabians and Pomeranians/German Spitzs and I breed Arabians and Lord Tweedmouth's "Cowsliplets". Bonyl Golden Retrievers registered with the Kennel Union of Southern Africa in 2006. Bonyl pedigrees reflect approximately 75% UK show champion lines and 25% UK dual purpose champion lines imported to SA during the 1970 – 2000 period. (A dual purpose Golden Retriever is a blend between show and working lines.) The skilful imports by SA breeders of yesteryear like Di Phillipson from Kilifi, included a number of top UK kennels like Stolford, Stanroph, Putjade, Stubblesdown, Ritzilyn and Catcombe, to name but a few. Helen Kessler imported various dogs from Rossbourne. for her Gavalat kennel. Imports tapered off by the 2000's due to a weakening Rand and advances in frozen semen technology.

Honorary members of the Transvaal Golden Retriever Club, John and Roxi McCormick bought their first three Golden Retrievers in 1977, the progeny of the imports mentioned above. John's dog Summerfold Teak of Sokatumi was made up as a SA dual champion. Under the kennel name "Sokatumi" they handled/bred four dual champions, out of the five at the time, and a number of breed champions and won Top Golden Retriever Breeder of the year, for a number of years. This was based on the winning results of their progeny both in shows and field trails. In 1988 Roxi and Bill Tait were invited to take Dual Champions to USA to take part in their National Field Trail. Our dogs did very well, passing all

tests, despite having to perform some novel USA based challenges. This visit resulted in a unique SA field test and field trail rulebook, suited to local conditions. In 2023 Roxi contacted Bonyl: “ I am excited to have found your website as you have the quality of Golden retrievers we have been looking for.” Unbenown to Roxi at the time, the Sokatumi champions are very well represented in Bonyl pedigrees! After 2 Bonyl visits the family purchased three Bonyl pups: “These are such gorgeous puppies and have terrific temperaments, most together dogs from day one!’



Ed Meyer has owned Golden retrievers for 44 years, from well known Golden kennels like McCormick Sokatuni and Helen Kessler’s Gavalat. The Meyer family has 4 Bonyl dogs. Below is “Gavalat Evening Kisses at Ranscombe”, resting below the bench, and two Bonyl dogs on either side of Craig.



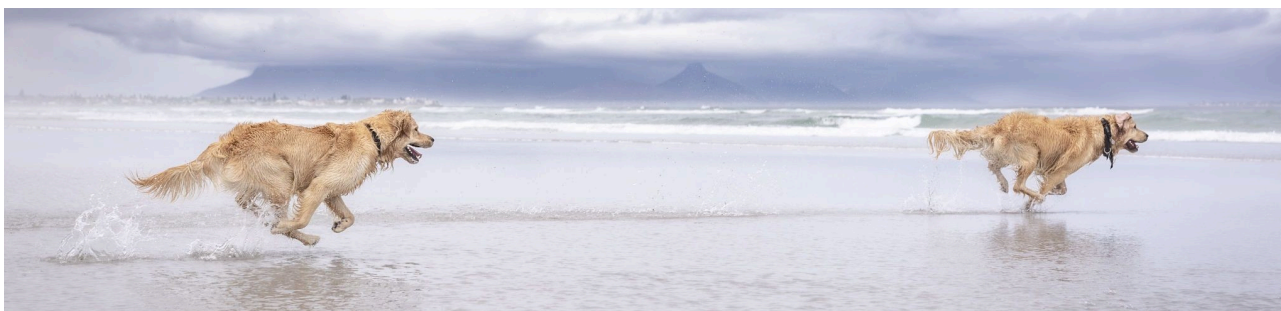
In 2011 Joy of Bonyl entered our lives. Joy was destined to become a matriarch. She passed her very fine champion UK and European genetics on to her offspring.



During the past almost two decades, Bonyl litters have been meticulously planned, materialised and registered, often by means of frozen semen. Pups who best embody the objectives of the breeding, are usually kept back and run on. The very best is selected and included in the breeding programme. Selection is the basis of stud improvement. Breeders first need to create, and secondly exercise the powertool of choice, if they hope to make a significant contribution to a breed. With every passing litter, Bonyl draws closer to manifesting our dual-purpose breeding aims: to perfect Bonyl dogs to a point of meeting temperament and conformation breed standards as well as to eliminate hereditary health problems. We strive for healthy, beautiful, athletes that are motivated by high biddability, to do any job reasonably required of them.

We achieve this through line breeding and blending top UK, European, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand lines. We breed only three litters from our females, (four litters in exceptional cases of small litters) before the mums are gifted to pet homes with one of their pups. Our focused and consistent improvement strategies have resulted in an established reputation across Southern Africa, as the place to go for discerning buyers of quality Golden Retrievers.

We are invested in the welfare and longevity of our dogs. We intentionally educate Bonyl pup owners with the know-how we have learnt over the years. We keep contact with pup parents through personal contact as well as through local Bonyl WhatsApp groups. These are informative, supportive groups aimed at sharing joy and fostering local communities through meet-ups. South African's mild climates and magnificent landscapes potentially bring to Bonyl dogs fitness, stimulation, robustness, resilience and a year-round connection to Nature - a very welcome rebalance for Bonyl human families after a day, or a week, spent indoors behind computer screens.



At presnet, Bonyl's future is once again intertwined with the UK, and the ever present company of horses, Paint Horses in Pembrookshire, Wales, to be exact.



A long cherished dream came true when Springtime Nutmeg for Bonyl (left) and Sparkling Maple for Bonyl (right) made their way from Wales and landed at Cape Town airport on 8 May 2024. The two sisters bring clean bills of health of their parents as well as UK, Spanish, Netherlands and FCI International champion ancestry:

7E GENERATION PEDIGREE

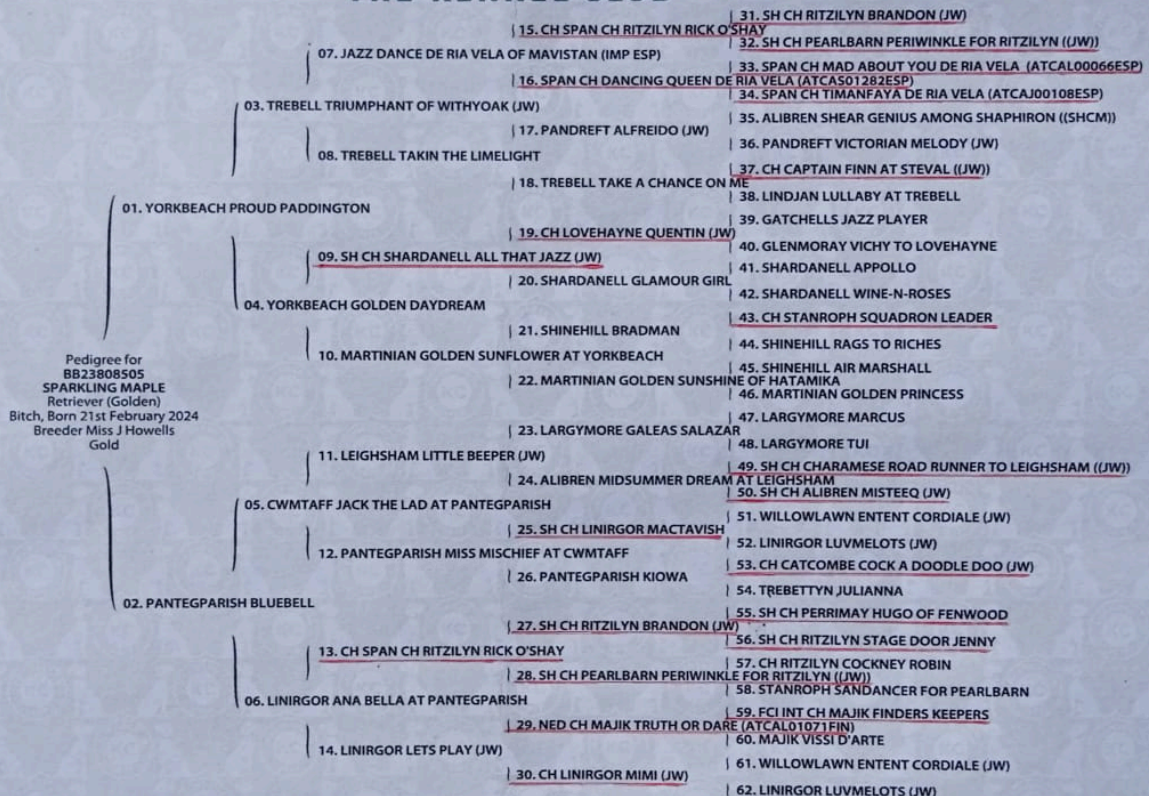
This pedigree has been compiled from official records. This is not an export document.

Edited by

Miss J Howells
Executive and Secretary
Date: 15th April 2024



THE KENNEL CLUB



Miss J Howells
Claremont House
St. Brides Hill
Saundersfoot
SA69 9NP

thekennelclub.org.uk

The Kennel Club Limited

10 Clarges Street, London W1J 8AB

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May Meg (left) and Maple (right) follow in Joy's paw-prints and be blessed at the Southern tip of Africa. Welcome home!

