

Carabineer 1974 - 2008

For thirty years there has been a familiar sight on the roads and fields of the Wychwood area; a handsome richly coloured chestnut horse with a white blaze down his face and a particularly proud tail carriage. Very sadly he will be seen no more.



competitive career with the Heythrop Hunt Pony Club followed by 'proper' Eventing. Many of you will remember his rise to prominence as the top Arabian racehorse in Britain and Europe. In 1986 he won the

prestigious Dubai Stakes at Kempton Park. He raced from the ages of eleven to fourteen, winning 13 of his 22 starts.

Some Birthday Present!

We took our last ride on Monday 25th February enjoying the sunshine and a few nice canters around Lyneham and Bruern. Very fortunately we bumped into Liz Fox, from The Heath in Milton on her lovely young horse and Hassan enjoyed jogging along with him whilst we chatted. Just before we re-entered Milton, Hassan felt odd so I jumped off and he went down. I cradled his dear old head, rubbed his face and talked to him and he was very swiftly gone. With the help of a gang of wonderful nearby builders and Liz's great assistance with her trailer the heartbreaking task of moving him was immeasurably easier.

Carabineer, to use his name from the Arab Horse Society (his sire was named Carbine) or Hassan to those that knew him, came to Milton on May 3rd 1977 as a fourteenth birthday present from my parents, Bob and Margaret Bradley. He was just three years old and only just broken-in but before long we started our

Fast and Furious

Following his retirement from racing we resumed other activities such as Team Chasing, a fast and furious cross-country jumping activity. He would jump hedges we couldn't see over and was as nippy and clever as a cat both there and in the hunting field, which he loved.

As with most things in life, teamwork helps and I have an enormous debt of gratitude to my family. My wonderful but diminutive and non-horsey mother has always looked after him when other commitments have kept me away and many family members and friends have, in their turn, fed, exercised, mucked-out, led him up at races, driven, accompanied and looked out for him. Thank you all.

Kim Barefield (Bradley)

Carabineer has previously featured in The Wychwood in Oct/Nov 1985 and in Feb/March 1987. Editor