

EVERGREEN

Born in 1929, General Ghazi graduated from the Military College as a cavalry officer full of ambition to compete and become an international rider. "It takes years and years of dedication and hard work to become a professional rider," says General Ghazi.

Reminiscing the picture, General Ghazi tells us the story. Shown right is General Ghazi riding Mabrouk, a 10 year old Hanoverian, whom he broke and schooled himself. Together with General Gamal Hares and General Mohamed Selim Zaki, (riding Nefertiti & Artos) the threesome traveled to participate in the Salso Maggoire Nations Cup in Italy, prior to the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome. With fences as high as 140 - 160 cm in the Nations Cup, the riders could train their horses to ensure their top condition, a few months before the Olympics.

Out of 21 countries participating in the 1960 Rome Olympics, only 6 teams reached the finals with the remaining 15 countries eliminated. " We finished 4th" says General Ghazi smiling proudly. "Back then " he continues, " the Olympics were much more complicated than nowadays. Today they take the best 3 results out of the 4 riders. For us, being only 3 riders, if one rider messed up, that meant team elimination." International Show Jumping for General Ghazi started as early as summer of 1956, where he participated in the Nations Cup Series in Austria and in Switzerland, further on to Champion du Monde in Germany, and finally the Olympics in Stockholm, riding Cleopatra. 1960 was a victorious year for General Ghazi on Mabrouk conquering 4th place in the Olympics in Rome. Due to Federation complications, the Egyptian team did not compete in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, even though they had trained for it by taking part in the Olympic Ribbon series, summer of 1963, beginning from France and ending in Spain.

General Ghazi continued to compete locally for 2 more years, then retired content with a most fulfilling show jumping past. He was elected Secretary General of the Equestrian Federation, 1992 -1996. Being a strong believer himself of competing in International Events abroad, General Ghazi sent the Egyptian team on 7 trips throughout the 4 years. 1992 in Qatar and in Aqaba, 1993 Vichy Grand Prix in France, and in Syria (without horses), 1995 in Australia (w/o horses), 1996 in Iran (w/o horses), and again in Vichy Grand Prix in France. Although General Ghazi does not actually mount, he rides all the time. Mentally and not physically that is. Watching others, he constantly finds himself advising them and feels that it is he who is riding instead.



International News



EVENT: HELSINKI - WORLD CUP FINAL, TOTAL RESULTS

Date 19 April 1998 - Classification WC F - Country FINLAND
Prize-money CHF 320000 + Volvo Car

RANK	RIDER	NATION	HORSE	POINTS
1	Rodrigo Pessoa	BRA	L.P Baloubet du Rouet	20.0
2	Lars Nieberg	GER	Esprit FRH	17.0
3	Ludger Beerbaum	GER	P.S. Priamos	15.0
4	René Tebbel	GER	Radiator	12.5
4	Richard Spooner	USA	Cosino H	12.5
6	Leslie Howard	USA	S'Blieft	10.5

Volvo has been the title sponsor of the World Cup for Jumping Riders since the series started in 1978. In 1990, Volvo also took over the sponsorship of the World Cup in Dressage, thereby becoming the world's foremost sponsor of equestrian sports.

Qualifying competitions for both Volvo World Cups are held all over the world. In the 1997/98 season there was a total of 120 Jumping competitions on all continents, 34 in Europe, 30 in North America, 11 in South America, 5 in Africa, 12 in Asia and 28 in Australia/New Zealand. In Dressage there were 13 competitions in Europe and over 20 in the US, Canada and Australia.

The best riders from all qualifying leagues in both Volvo World Cups competed in the World Finals, which were held in 1998 in Helsinki, Finland (Jumping) and Gothenburg, Sweden (Dressage). About 45 riders competed in the Jumping Final and about 15 in the Dressage Final.