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INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING  
AT THE POLICE ACADEMY

CSI1 CAIRO - EGYPT ON THE RISE

By Bridget McArdle McKinney

A DAY OUT AT THE POLICE ACADEMY GROUNDS TO WATCH THE EGYPTIAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION CSI1\*- CSICH – B INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING COMPETITION AND ATTENDED BY THE MINISTERS OF CULTURE AND SPORTS MADE FOR A FUN AND UNIQUE CAIRO EXPERIENCE - AND FOR SOME OPTIMISM FOR EGYPT'S FUTURE WITH THE EGYPTIAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION MOVING AHEAD WITH EXEMPLARY ORGANISATION TO HOST INTERNATIONAL RIDERS FROM 10 NATIONS.

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Mohamed Taher Ziyada



Mohamed Talaat, GP winner



His Excellency Tarek Abo Zeid, Minister of Sports



France's Robin Muhr



France's Isabelle Schroeter Taisserec



Italy's Paolo Nuti



Syria's Manaf Jabri, Medium GP winner



Some of Egypt's Police Officers & equestrians!

I had long wanted to see the grounds and competition at the Police Academy show jumping grounds and this FEI sanctioned event held from 19 – 21 February under the auspices of the Minister of the Interior Mr. Mohamed Ibrahim was my ticket in. Held under strictest security, weaving our way through the several checkpoints, I wondered what we would find.

Approaching the grounds we could see the flags of the various international teams participating, snapping smartly in the breeze above the arena. Riders from Sudan, Morocco, Algeria, Syria, Italy, Belgium, Ireland, Zimbabwe, the Netherlands and Mauritius were invited to compete on borrowed horses and efficiency and organisation were obvious as we entered the event area. First, you see plenty of comfortable shaded

raised seating areas in landscaped grounds served by several food and drink outlets. The course itself, designed by Mr. Michel Ismalun was very attractive and challenging and the footing seemed good as the first of the competitors started out.

One after one, each rider pressed quickly through the course and it soon became clear which riders were nervous, or were focused, in control and in perfect sync. The pacing and timing before and between jumps as well as the handling of the turns made all the difference in the results.

The show was an excellent opportunity for Egyptian and foreign riders to compete at different difficulty levels: Small, Medium and Big tours. Because this was the first international show to be organised

in Egypt since CSI 1\* (A) – Cairo HORSES & HOPES International Show Jumping Festival 2012, the organisers, trainers, riders, and grooms were all very excited to do their best, showing their professional capabilities and skilful know-how which reflected very positively on the show. All riders from all age groups were very enthused to excel and to demonstrate their best riding styles, techniques and skills after long hours, weeks, months and years of training and practice. Moreover, professional Egyptian riders were very motivated by the highly competitive atmosphere and put in their best performances at international level.

Egyptian Lawyer Sameh Kamal participating in the Medium Tour explained: "I was a little overwhelmed at the beginning being at my first

international show along with my Holstein mare, Cocco, but as soon as I rode her into the arena, all I could see were the fences and all I could hear were the encouraging voices of the show commentator and the lovely spectators. The result was AMAZING. I rode very well and even got some clear rounds! Building up a horse for such an event is a thrilling experience. Chapeau to all participants to this event!"

By the end of each day the best riders and horses were on the trophy list. As the respective national anthems of the winners were played and all of the attendees paid due respect, I felt that there was a sense of pride in the success of this event in the face of current circumstances here and a sense of Egypt coming back into its own, Egypt on the rise... m



Eng. Hisham Hattab, EEF President & Gen. Sayed Moawed, EEF Technical Manager



*Belgium's Francois Bossu*



*Renowned Dutch Trainer, Arno Neessen*



*Ahmed Alaa Ragab*



*Morocco's Ahmed Derghal*



*France's Maelle Martin*



*Mauritius' Isabelle Labat and Hyder Joonas*



*The esteemed Judges!*



*Jordan's Team 962*



*The esteemed Course Designers*

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