



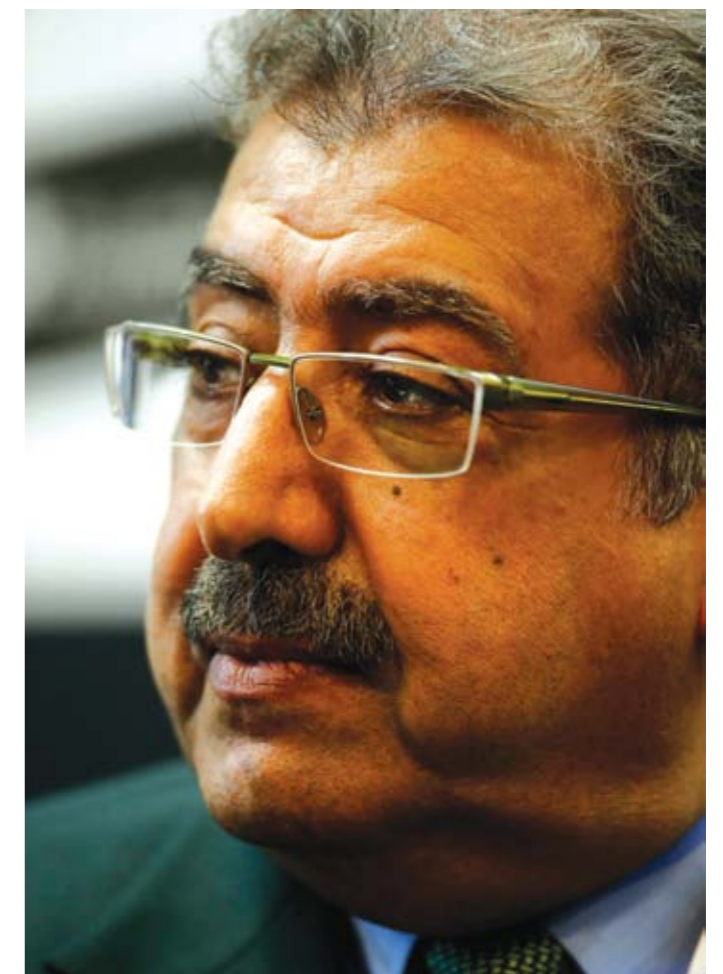
## KING ABDULLAH SHOW JUMPING FESTIVAL 2013 CHIVALRY, HONOUR AND DIGNITY

By Khaled Assem

HORSE TIMES ATTENDED THE SECOND ANNUAL KING ABDULLAH SHOW JUMPING FESTIVAL CSI5\*-RIYADH WHICH WAS STAGED AT THE MAGNIFICENT NOFA EQUESTRIAN RESORT LATE NOVEMBER – EARLY DECEMBER. AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FESTIVAL HRH PRINCE ABDULLAH BIN MITEB BIN ABDULLAH BIN ABDULAZIZ PUT INTO ACTION HIS BELIEF THAT EQUESTRIANISM IS A DEMANDING SPORT AND IS AT THE HEART OF THE HERITAGE AND IDENTITY OF ALL SAUDIS.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Saudi Equestrian Fund, HH Prince Faisal bin Abdullah stated that a key aim of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Show Jumping Festival is not so much the winning, it was to provide Saudi equestrians with the opportunity to improve by competing at a higher level against equestrians from other countries with different skills. As HH Prince Faisal told HT:

*“THE VALUE OF THIS WORD [FURUSSIA OR HORSEMANSHIP] IS THE PERCEPTION OF CHIVALRY, KNOWLEDGE OF EQUESTRIANISM, AND THE HIGHER VALUE OF PASSION AND COMPASSION BETWEEN MAN AND HORSE. IT IS THE ESSENCE OF DIGNITY AND HUMILITY AND A TEST OF BRAVERY AND HONOUR. THE MESSAGE HERE IS NOT JUST THE WINNING; IT IS THE ENDEAVOUR OF BRAVERY, PATIENCE AND HONOUR. IT DOES NOT RECOGNISE A PRINCE, IT SIMPLY RECOGNISES A HORSEMAN. IT IS THE IDENTITY OF A CULTURE THAT HAS BEEN THERE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.”*





HRH Prince Abdullah bin Miteb



Abdullah Al Sharbatly



Kamal Bahamdan won the GP qualifier of the Festival

Indeed, for some time there has been a strong and focused movement to support and encourage the sport of show jumping in Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom has received significant international accolades and recognition for its achievements in show jumping, chiefly through the successes of the Saudi Equestrian team. As HRH Prince Abdullah confirmed, "The support of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz is the foundation of the Festival. The King's support is complemented by the generous support of HRH Crown Prince Salman bin Abdulaziz, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and HRH Prince Muqrin bin Abdulaziz, Special Envoy to King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, Second Deputy

Prime Minister. The King's support is based upon the importance he places on the younger generation, sport in general and equestrianism in particular." The first tournament held from 20 – 23 November was the domestic Saudi tournament (Lel Watan) which was being run for the fifth time. The tournament consisted exclusively of Saudi riders of all ages and levels of skill. The second tournament was for international equestrians, and worldwide participation was invited. A five-star rating for the event has been assured by the course configuration, competitor qualification criteria and the size of the prize money.

The third tournament was exclusive to nationals of Gulf countries and was the first of its kind. There was a round dedicated to younger riders aimed at promoting equestrianism in the Gulf and raising existing standards. Cash prize money of \$ one million was on offer to the tournaments' victors. Abdulrahman Alzahrani, PR Manager of the Saudi Equestrian Federation stated, "With the big prize money available from organisation and sponsoring companies, every rider could win something even if a small amount. The idea is to present financial support in the form of prize money whereby young riders can at least afford all their requirements. The shows are the way to progress



*Khaled Assem, HH Prince Faisal & Sami Al Duhami*

and the prize money is the way to sustain that. This comes through HRH Prince Abdullah bin Miteb, Prince Badr bin Muhammed and other sponsors such as Khalid Al Jeraisy.”

Hosting the Festival at the luxurious Nofa Equestrian Resort was certainly an intended part of this ‘heritage showcase’.

Located in the centre of the Kingdom, close to Tebrak some 85 kilometres from Riyadh, it is arguably the most prestigious and beautiful resort of its type in the Arab world. Built with an eye to the desert’s original Bedouin culture it melds with the environment and landscape.

The resort describes its ambience and design thus: “Throughout

the day the effect of the wind and angle of the sun’s rays are constantly changing the shape and colour of the sand dunes. Like a cross between snakes and chameleons the dunes change from the morning’s shade of light beige to the late afternoon’s reddish hues. The resort design has not only been based on the landscape, but also on Bedouin culture. Competitive horse riding has always been part of Bedouin culture, and Bedouins have always lived in the desert. So horses and desert are their twin loves with their tent as home and shelter from extreme weather. Also Bedouin hospitality to visitors is legendary...what better an inspiration for a resort than to capture tradition and service quality with modern

sustainability?”

The Saudi Equestrian team riders have had their most successful show of the year during this Festival. With four of the team’s six riders competing, Saudi Equestrian was well represented here.

The victories started early for the Saudi Equestrian team, with Kamal Bahamdan winning on the opening day – the 5\* Grand Prix qualifier riding Noblesse des Tess, and this had been preceded with a second place finish for HRH Prince Abdullah bin Miteb in the opening class of the day with two clear rounds aboard Senorita.

The second day saw Abdullah Sharbatly register his first of what would be three



*Ibrahim Bisharat, Bob Ellis & Atef Shawky*



*Fahad Al Eid*



Khaled Al Eid



HRH Prince Nawaf bin Faisal, President of the KSA Equestrian Federation, along with Eng. Khaled Allam, one of the Festival's sponsors, Abdullah Al Sharbatly & Sheikh Ali Al Thani

victories in three days, when he won the 1.45m class aboard Little Pezi. A resurgent Khaled Al Eid was in third place riding Moustic des Flayelles and Kamal Bahamdan riding Cezanne 30 was fifth. All three riders went double clear, but Sharbatly's second round was particularly impressive as he was 3.5 seconds faster than his nearest rival in second place.

"Little Pezi is a new horse for me and is already jumping really well", said Sharbatly, "The level of competition at the show has been amazing, with all the local and international riders bringing their best horses which makes each class highly competitive. However, both Little Pezi and Chicago 84

have shown their class, and I'm delighted with the way they have been jumping throughout the week".

Course designer Bob Ellis commented to HT, "For this Festival I knew that the standard of riding was going to be good and a little more concentrated as it is a World Cup qualifier. I hope I set up enough tests without going stupid so that there would be no problem for the horses, but rather for the riders that they would have to adjust the stride patterns a little bit more and hopefully we get to watch some good sport. All the problems that we put in with the distances are more a rider's problem than a horse's one."

The victories continued for Sharbatly on the third and final day. Riding Chicago 84 he won the first class of the day, going double clear and fastest in the jump-off, ahead of his Saudi Equestrian team mate Kamal Bahamdan in third on Cezanne 30. And Sharbatly went one better in the Grand Prix when, riding Little Pezi, he again went double clear and six seconds faster than the second placed rider. 🏆

For full results, see:  
<http://tinyurl.com/qac97os>

Sources for this article include:  
King Abdullah Show Jumping Festival website and Saudi Equestrian

# الدورة العاشرة من معرض دبي الدولي للخيل

المعرض التجاري الأبرز في الشرق الأوسط لقطاع الفروسية



20 - 22 مارس 2014  
مركز دبي التجاري العالمي

## تجربة راقية في عالم الفروسية

هل ترغب في حضور أكبر حدث في عالم الفروسية للعام؟ يمثل معرض دبي الدولي للخيل نقطة لقاء لمختلف الجهات المعنية بالفروسية، من فرسان محترفين، وأصحاب الجياد العربية، والاسطبلات، ونوادي الفروسية، وهواة الفروسية.

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