Dr. Hisham Sadek

Everyone needs someone to look up to, that's why we all are continously on the search for role models to guide us through the tough path of life and help us in deciding what we want to do with it. If you are a junior rider and still searching for one, here is the man you are looking for.

Dr. Hisham Aly Sadek, Professor and Head of private international law department in the University of Alexandria, Head of the International Community for culture and Enlightenment, Head of the Consumer Protection committee in Alexandria, Vice President of the Egyptian committee for solidarity between Afro-Asiatic people, former dean of the law school in Beirut, Former representative of the Polo Federation, was a professional horse back rider: show jumper, a polo player, and still practices them as his main hobby. I wonder how many lives does it take to do what this man did and still doing in his life.

Dr. Sadek, born on the 20th of October 1936, graduated from Law school, Cairo University in 1957; in 1963 he took his Masters degree from the University of Alexandria, and finished his PhD in International private law from both the University of Alexandria and Surbon University in France.

His professional horse back riding career started when he was still a student in the primary school and used to go to Gezira Sporting club with his uncle to ride. Then in 1960, when he was a student in Cairo university his interest in horse back riding started to grow so he regularly went to rent hoses and ride in the area near the Giza Pyramids. When he moved to Alexandria to work as a member of the Military Prosecution for Marine Forces, he started practicing polo and show jumping in Semooha club and Alexandria Sporting club. In 1970, he was chosen to join the National Egyptian Horse Back Riding team and the National polo team.

Dr. Sadek participated in a lot of competitions and championships all through his life. The first horse back riding competition he participated in was in Semooha Club, Alexandria (1961). It was a small competition, the height of barriers was only 90 c.m, and he won 2nd place. Moreover, the most important competitions where: 1971 and 1974 International competitions that took place in Beirut, and Shtoora respectively, and a friendly competition with the Lebanese team that took place in Egypt (1970). Furthermore, his first official competition in Polo was in 1963, it was the national championship finals between Gezira team and Sporting team, his team, who won the match. And the most important Polo matches he participated in were at the beginning of the 80s with the American team in Egypt. He is still participating in mostly small competitions just for the love of the sport. Dr. Sadek believes that these kinds of sports are never restricted to an age group, even world champion's ages range from thirty five to fifty five years old, and Dr. Sadek is now over 66 years old and still in the game.

Dr. Sadek owned more than 12 horses, and he now owns a gelding named "Guevara" and a Dutch horse named "Manar2". This horse was called after his old horse "Manar" which he owned since the age of three until she aged to be 24 and still is his favorite horse.

Last but not least, the greatest success in Dr. Sadek's life is his two sons Sherif and Hossam. Sherif the eldest, practices horse back riding in Sakkara Country Club, And Hossam plays Polo ever since he was a student in Law school, is playing in the Sporting club team, and he represented Egypt Internationally in many Polo championships.

Amr Assem

'First impressions are not necessarily true', was the first phrase that came to my mind when I decided to write about Amr. When you first meet Amr you will get the impression that he is an average, normal, and quiet guy, but once you get to know him you will find out that he is the complete opposite.

Amr Assem Fathy, graduated in spring 2002 from the American University in Cairo (AUC), Mass Communication Major, with a GPA over 3.0. Amr is a Show jumper. Beside Horse Back Riding Amr plays boxing in Gezira Sporting club and likes to play the piano andthe violin.

Amr's riding career started in Gezira Sporting Club back in 1987. His parents where the ones who encouraged him to start riding and his love and passion for this sport is what pushed him further, "I liked the relationship between me and my horse, unlike other sports where you are just dealing with an object like a ball" Amr Said. Till 1992 Amr was riding in the Gezira Sporting Club's junior riding school, then he moved to Gezira's show jumping team to be coached by Captain Mohsen Seliman.

The first championship Amr participated in was Gezira Jumping Festival, in 92, where he made a clear round. And in 93/94 season, he won first place in the junior Egyptian National Competition.

In 94 Amr bought his first horse, Snoopy, it was an Arabian horse. Moreover, in the summer of 95 he traveled to be trained in Yorkshire riding centre, England, where he entered four competitions. In these competitions he won first place in one event, second place in another and third place in two other events. A year later, he bought a Dutch horse, called Disney way, with which he won third place in an international competition in Sakkara Country Club, first place in four rounds of the Egyptian National Championship, and second place in the Egyptian National competition(96/97).

One of the unforgettable competitions Amr participated in was back in 1997, where he had an eye injury-one eye totally covered with plaster. And he still insisted to join the competition in spite of the judging board's reluctance, and he actually won 2nd place.

Amr is now riding Ever Touch his new horse, bought from Holland in 2000. Moreover, in Holland, Amr had the opportunity to ride with Karim El-Zoghby "who helped me a lot in developing my skills in Show Jumping".

Recently Amr hasn't been active in competitions because of some time-management problems. However, he is planning to get himself back on track real soon with his horse, Ever Touch.

Amr, on "Disney-Way", in Army Club, 2002

Amr in Gezirah Club, 1990