



Mrs. Josiane Hakiem, Ms. Zienab Kamel, Ms. Amina Ammar and Ms. Carine Shawky.

SHARJAH LADIES CUP

EGYPTIAN LADIES CAPTURE THE BRONZE MEDAL

By Khaled Assem

THE EGYPTIAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION WAS PLEASED AND HONOURED TO RECEIVE AN INVITATION FROM THE ARAB WOMEN SPORTS TOURNAMENT 2016 IN SHARJAH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE THIRD REGIONAL WOMEN'S SHOWJUMPING CHAMPIONSHIP. THIS CHAMPIONSHIP INVITATION WAS EXTENDED TO CLUBS FROM ALL AROUND THE MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING EGYPT.

Sharjah Ladies Club is one of the government organisations of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, run under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher bint Mohammed AlQasimi, Wife of His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah and Chairperson of Supreme Council for Family Affairs.

Since its establishment in 1982, the club has been dedicated to providing leisure and educational facilities and activities to women and children. The club also organises events and activities to promote issues relating to society, art and health, in addition to charity events, bazaars, exhibitions, marathons, seminars and forums of all sorts.

They established a Women Sports Department to honour the efforts that aim to empower the role of women in the sports field, promote awareness among the society members on the importance of getting active, advance women's productivity and prepare the new generation to lead a healthy and fit lifestyle.

With mounting excitement, the Federation chose the historic 'Ferousia Club' as Egypt's representative team as the club has trained and hosted enough talented women at the level required by the event's organisers in Sharjah. Accordingly, the Federation settled the roster of the Ferousia team: Mrs. Josiane Hakiem, Ms. Amina Ammar, Ms. Zienab Kamel, Ms. Carine Shawky, our international judge Mrs. Hanan Elderieny and I, acting as a chef d'equipe.

Our team were to ride borrowed horses and that in itself was a predicament until Gen. Sayed Moawad contacted Mr. Mohamed Elboraie, one of our most prominent riders living in the Gulf, to help find appropriate horses for our team. On the first day the horse/rider combinations chosen by Mr. Elboraie turned out to be very successful. Amina found two nice options and felt comfortable right away, Zienab had her own horses there that she competes with during the winter season, Carine was at ease with the horse she found and finally Josiane with her usual big smile was content.

The trip was great fun with all the ladies who were so inspired to raise the Egyptian flag, the weather was amazing and the only remaining thing was to turn this inspiration into reality. Apart from the actual results, which were quite good, our ladies were as tough as expected. Amina found a third horse to ride and happily was placed with the three horses. Carine had a fence down with her allocated horse but her father Mr. Shawky fortunately leased another horse that helped increase Carine's opportunities in a bigger class. Zienab jumped her horses with a lot of craft yet a pole down kept her just a notch away from being placed. As for Josiane, she rode like a star and was placed with her horse to make sure that the ladies went back with the flag held high, smiles everywhere and a bronze medal.

Travelling with the team proved to be a very enjoyable experience apart from the tension involved as I am used to being a rider rather than a chef d'equipe but now I know that the fun is just the same. 🐾