

Show-jumping in Jordan

By: **Sinan Nashashibi**

Show Jumping started in Jordan in the early 80s, and has become one of the most popular Equestrian disciplines in the country. Since 1989, the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation (RJEF) started organizing the sport nationally and internationally. Since then, Jordan held yearly international events and competitions and its national team started traveling abroad for international competitions and training clinics.

In the early 90s many international events and training clinics were held under the supervision of the RJEF and the Arabian Horse Club. During that time, show-jumping began to improve when Jordan started importing European show-jumping horses.

In 1991 a yearly international competition was first held in AQABA bearing the name of the late H. M. Queen Alia Al-Hussein. Several countries from the region were hosted by the RJEF such as Syria, Lebanon, Qatar, Egypt, U.A.E, while several top European riders participated in the show on 'borrowed horses'. The power behind this yearly show was HRH Princess Haya Bint Al-Hussein.

The first Grand Prix (G.P.) 91 was won by the Jordanian Hani Bisharat on 'San Francisco'. He also won the G.P. in 1992. In 1993 the first nation cup series started in 1993 and Jordan, the host country, won with a three-rider team that included HRH Princess Haya Bint Al-Hussein, Hani Bisharat and Ra'ed Nasser.

The public of AQABA were very keen on attending the event, where the number of spectators reached 8,000 per show.

Many European Show Jumpers proved their efficiency by the results they achieved internationally. Some of them were scouted and re-exported abroad. Breeding show-jumpers started in the mid 90s by using European warm blooded stallions crossing them with local Arabian breeds, thorough breeds and a few European Brood mares.

There are 12 equestrian clubs and centers working under the umbrella of the RJEF specialized in show-jumping. Almost 200 riders, trainers, judges, course designers and vets are registered in the records of the RJEF.

The RJEF organized many Federation Equestrian

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