



## Summer Camp at "de witte vallei"

*Khaled Assem and Ahmed Hussein from Ferosia club together with Mohamed Khalifa the owner of Stallion Equestrian center, have been organizing summer camps in Holland for their riders. Giving them the best annual opportunity to feel part of a world created specially for them.*

*The primary purpose of the camps is to offer the riders a rewarding experience in the art of showjumping including all related tasks. The summer camp offers the experience of problemsolving and competence. It is the component of training that picks up where all-year schooling leaves off.*

Arno Neessen, the Dutch international trainer and rider conducts the clinics in the camps. Arno is no stranger to Egypt, as he visits frequently conducting clinics in several clubs. This of course, makes him the perfect choice because he has a lot of knowledge about the Equestrian sport in Egypt. And he actually knows many of the riders and their horses.

The Witte Vallie, meaning the white valley, owned by Lucia and her family, is the equestrian center that has been hosting those riders for the past three years. They chose to stay there because they felt warmly welcomed in this homey equestrian community. The center consists of a large indoor riding school, grass competition arena and couple of small sand riding arenas.

Supervised by Mohamed Khalifa and Ahmed Hussein, the group of summer 2001 consisted of: Hana Khalifa, Mohamed Essawy, Hassan Fakhry, Mohamed Hani Salah, Mahmoud Hani Salah, Khadiga Amin, Saleh Amin, Ashely Kate, and Marwan Imam From Stallion Equestrian Centre. Adel Sedky, and Hesham Medany from Ferosia Club. And Mohamed El Naggar from Sporting.

The fun started right at the airport, where they all gathered and said goodbye to their families. Each one was given an identification badge and all passports were collected by Mohamed and Ahmed. The team spirit had just started !! As they arrived there, rented vans were waiting in the airport and everything was ready for them in the center. Two months ahead profiles of riders were sent to Arno, So suitable horses were leased and already available.

Every morning, all riders gathered for breakfast, then headed for the stables to groom and tack up their horses and get ready for the dressage, gymnastics, and jumping lessons. They got a lot of help from Anne and Gus who helped them in understanding more about horse care and stable management. The day would fly, and after all this hard work one would imagine that this should be the end of the day....

But no, these are all teenagers they want to explore, get to know the place and have fun. They shower, get ready and head for down town and have dinner there. Sometimes they would enjoy the evening with all the other riders in the center gathered around a camp fire, melting marshmallows, and having mud fights!! Every week they get a whole day off for site seeing. They get great fun at the amusement park, the aqua park, and even going shopping in Germany!! Days go by, and everybody becomes more confident, it's time for participating in the clubs competition. They learn a lot and enjoy the challenge. But they still have time to learn more because later, they would really feel the challenge when they participate in a bigger competition with other international riders. This would be their big test at the end of the camp, applying all what they learnt and using their past experience from competing back home. (Actually, they achieved very good results proving themselves in a completely different environment).

This summer camp offered the participating riders many positive and rewarding experiences. It helped them develop their skills while giving them a chance to become more responsible and independent.

*It was Training, Fun and Friendship. The Experience of a Lifetime.*

