

# THE ABOGABALS

## LIKE FATHER LIKE SON

By Nada H. Abdelmoniem



Ahmed Abogabal developed a passion for horse riding at an early stage when he was ten years old, while watching his friend competing in dressage at Shams Club. He started training for dressage first and then show jumping with Gen. Youssef Ghorab at El Basateen. Father of two sons, Abogabal has big plans for his eldest Mohamed and stated, "From my observation of Mohamed riding horses, I feel that being on a horse has given him a sense of commitment and responsibility, of being careful and thinking before making any decisions. There's no doubt that it made him a more dedicated person while also adding modesty and appreciation towards others' efforts - which is great for someone his age."

In support of his father's observations, Mohamed described his training programme with Ahmed Sabry at the Gezira Club. "My trainer, also known as 'Kimo', gives me useful information about riding. He is a hard worker and he has plenty of experience. He takes care of his horses and treats them well, and he invests in them to be able to get the best results. He also spends time with me after every competition to mentor me on my mistakes and help me work on them."

Abogabal senior continued by saying that he believed horsemanship would genuinely contribute to his son's character. "When individuals become more involved in equestrian sport and start to win, they develop this big sense of self-importance which doesn't lead to the best of results



in the longer run. However, true horsemanship helps riders to acquire modesty and to appreciate their mistakes and weaknesses and admit them.”

Abogabal junior won locally with Quickbreak – 4th place in the 2012 F-Class. In 2013 he won with Cando – 5th place/under 14-years D-Class and Carnival – 4th place in the E-Class. In 2014, Abogabal won 1st place/under 16-years C-Class with Calvados, with an overall ranking of 2nd place – plus in the B-Class with Cando, he was placed 6th/under 18-years. We asked him if he deserved all those wins and he modestly declared, “My competitors were Omar Adel and Ahmad Nagy and I think that Ahmed deserved to win even though he came late this season.”

Envisioning the future for his son, Abogabal senior explained that he is encouraging his son to keep his eyes on a very big goal and to try to reach it, as well as to never give up his ambitions or to feel that there’s nothing more he can do to improve. He continued, saying, “I hope that Mohamed one day qualifies for the Olympics. We are going to do our best to reach that goal as even now at an early stage, I try my best to send him to camps abroad to learn from people with experience, to purchase for him better horses, and to allow him to enter different international competitions because competing only locally is not enough.”

Even though Abogabal junior favours the “German Gun” Marcus Ehning for the reason that he has great riding style and experience and has progressed quickly in his career, the person who really has the greatest impact on him is his father. He explained, “My father is the person who has the biggest impact on me. And one



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day, I hope to participate at the Olympics, the FEI World Cup and Spruce Meadows. To reach my goals I will work very hard, I will ride consistently, I will be serious and dedicated, and I will also try

to improve my technical abilities by attending clinics all over the world and train on different horses. This is what my father has been teaching me to aim for.”



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