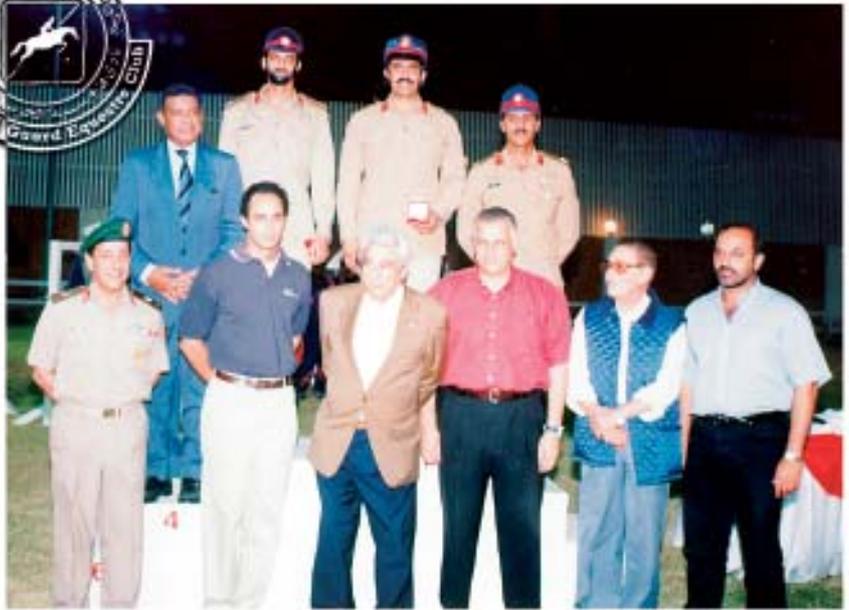




THE OFFICIAL INAUGURATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD EQUESTRIAN CLUB

BY SIMA FARES



First row, from left: Gen. Mohamed Sabry, Gamal Mobarak, Gen. Saad Khalifa, Eng. A. Ragab, Gen. Elwi Ghazi, Eng. H. Hattab. Second row, from left: Dr. Mahmoud Khallaf, Major Hossam El Haddary, Lieut. Col. Mohamed Moselhi, Major Wael El Mahallawy.

October 1997 was when the idea of creating a Presidential Guard Equestrian Club emerged. This plan soon became a reality and the club was publicized on December 14 1998. However, it was not before March 17th 1999 that the Presidential Guard Equestrian Club was officially inaugurated and became a full member of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation.

The inauguration ceremony took place in the presence of Gamal Mubarak, who as a Board member of the Presidential Guard Equestrian Club, gave his full support to help create this club according to the latest technology and highest standards.

Among the list of attendees were Chief of Presidential Guards forces Gen. Dr. Mahmoud Khallaf, who is also Chairman of the Board of the Equestrian Club; General Mohamed Sabry Salah, Director of Armour dep.; General Saad Khalifa, President of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation, as well as other federation board members and the

The ceremony, supervised by Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Moselhi, Secretary General of the Presidential Guard Equestrian Club, included a show-jumping demonstration to reveal the capabilities of the Presidential Guard riders, followed by a complete tour of the premises, stables and veterinary equipment available, and ending with a cocktail reception.

The Presidential Guard Equestrian Club is fully equipped to meet the demands of its 85 riders, 25 of whom ride ponies. There are three riding arenas; one grass (95x45m), and two sand (75x45m) & (40x45). All showjumping and dressage equipment is shipped from abroad. The fences and course equipment is made of a special combination of plastic and aluminum, which is extremely durable (so as not to be affected by weather conditions) and comes in a variety of colors. The newly built brick stables house 24 horses, where each horse has a spacious box with rubber floors, to protect their hooves and ensure easier sanitation, as well as automatic drinking bowls. An effective ventilation system guarantees that the air is continuously being renewed and odors diffused inside the stables. There are also randomly placed insect and flycatchers. The Presidential Guard transportation lorry is in a league of its own, regardless of its eye-catching blue color, this Mercedes lorry

is offered at all times, as there is a constant rotation between the 8 veterinarians at the club to guarantee both horse and rider safety. Since the inauguration, the Presidential Guard Equestrian Club has lived up to its standards and proudly hosted its first competition on May 20 1999. 106 riders from 10 different clubs participated in the competition, which turned out to be a complete success, both from the managerial and technical aspects.



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veteran rider Gamal Hares, the youngest Presidential Guard rider, Karim Moselhi.