

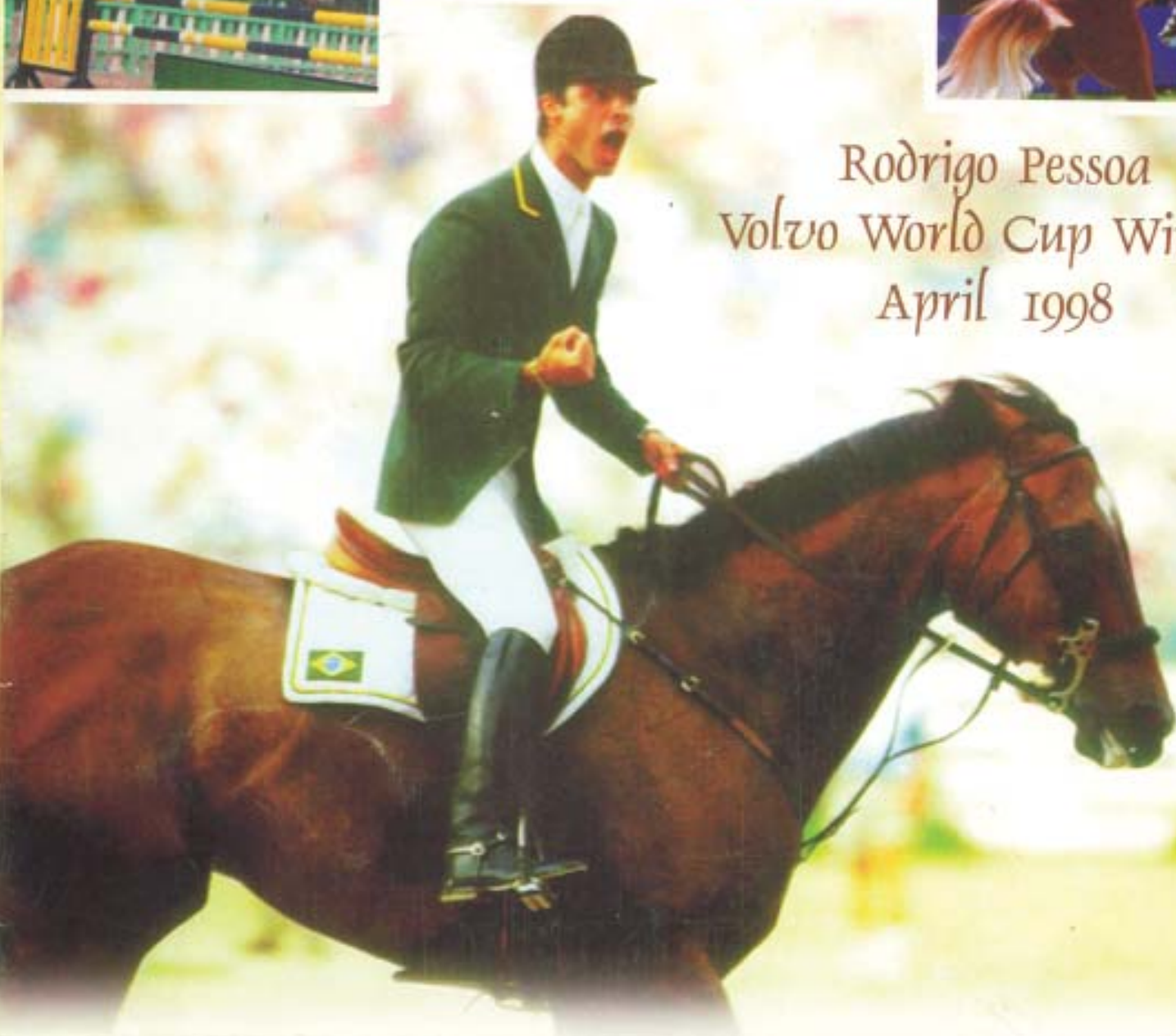


# HORSE TIMES

FREE

*A Complementary Newsletter for horse lovers*

ISSUE # 1 JUNE 1998



Rodrigo Pessoa  
Volvo World Cup Winner  
April 1998

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# HORSE TIMES

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Khaled Assem & Backus

## Welcome to the first issue....

Hello everybody and welcome to the very first issue of "Horse Times".

Whether you are an active rider, a breeder, a racer or even just a horse lover, you surely agree that the equestrian sport never ceases to amaze us all. Though our interests as individuals may differ, we are all still categorized as being part of this vast "horse industry."

Therefore, the need for producing an informative newsletter emerged. "Horse Times" will be covering major equestrian events in Egypt, as well as highlighting international happenings. Various feature articles, listings & rider profiles, veterinarian & health guidelines will also be included.

With the end of the riding season, this issue features a whole bunch of news. Federation standings for every level are listed, Royal Beach talks about its success story in Spain, and the Volvo Show Jumping results are finally out where Rodrigo Pessoa, son of former world champion Nelson Pessoa, won the title, the car and the prize money for the very first time. Evergreen, one of the regular articles, emphasizes on a certain picture and tells its' story - shown in this issue is General Elwi Ghazi in the Nations Cup in Italy.

So sit back and enjoy the very first issue...

Hoping to hear from all you readers, your opinion would be very much valued and appreciated.

Till next time, have a great summer !

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Looking forward for your comments

On the Cover : Adham Hammad Grade A Winner 1998, Karim Habashi and RB Cupid in Spain,  
The former double world champion Eric Navet at the Sakkara International November 1997,  
Arabian Magic at the Sakkara Arabian Horse Show,  
Another Brazilian victory for Rodrigo Pessoa





## Sakara International Show Jumping Competition 13-15 November 1997

It was quite warm for an early November morning. A clear sky hung over a perfect mixture of desert and greenery, only to enhance the breathtaking surrounding effects. Yet, all this went unnoticed for a group of horse lover volunteers. Dressed in green ESG sweatshirts, the organizers hurried along to complete final touches just before the opening ceremony of Sakara International Show Jumping Competition '97 commences.

Equestrian Sports Group (ESG) founded by the three musketeers, Khaled Assem, Karim Habashi and Ibrahim Sami aims to promote and increase equestrian competitions in Egypt, by bringing on more creativity and skill to the scene. Together with the help and enthusiasm of an organizing committee, generous sponsors, European and Egyptian riders, The Egyptian Equestrian Federation and horse donators, the event was a great success.

14 fences were put up at a height of 130 - 135 cm for the Grand Prix. Among the 29 riders, only a few managed to clear their way to the jump off, emphasizing the advanced level of the competition. First place title along with a magnificent silver trophy was taken by "crème de la crème" Frenchman Thierry Pomel riding Royal Beach Black Jack, whilst second, third and fourth positions were won by Egyptian riders.

On behalf of ESG, everyone who helped in making this event come true is deeply thanked for his or her time and effort involved. We thank you all.

Amina Khalifa, Ahmed Hussein, Mostafa Mousa, Samir Abdel Fattah, Mona Adnan, Sima Fares, Sherin Alfred, Shahira Ghourab, Maha Maalouf, Yehia Attala, Mohamed Nafei, Sherif Abdel Baky, Yasmine El Habashy, Merit Fanous, Sherine Assem, Nassifa Sabongui, Salma Ali, Khaled Ali, Maged Shawky and last but not least Tom Hudson.



## A Family Success

Sawaf may be a common surname in Egypt, but to showjumpers it means much more than just a name. Three members of this unique showjumper family have achieved great success in the equestrian sport in the past few years. General Ahmed El Sawaf began his riding career in 1971 in the Police Sports Union. Since then he has been continuously competing in Egypt as well as abroad, and is now one of the members of the Egyptian equestrian showjumping team.

Amongst his many victories, Sawaf recalls a remarkable horse named "Salam", with whom he won the "A" class two years in a row, 1983/1984 and 1984/1985 making him the champion of Egypt. In 1994/1995 and 1996/1997 Sawaf won 2nd and 3rd positions riding Ceasar and Greenwave, also in Grade "A". Unfortunately, Sawaf had to stop riding Greenwave due to the horse's illness in July '97, but he has recently made a comeback wining 2nd and 5th positions in Syria this March at the Basil El Asad Showjumping tournament in Damascus. Sawaf is currently riding Sugar, with whom he won 1st position in the "B" class both seasons 1996/1997 and 1997/1998.

Following their father's footsteps are Shady and Nahla El Sawaf. Both active riders they too have had their share of success. "I introduced my children to horses at an age as early as three years old," recalls Sawaf. "This allowed them to get to know and feel horses better."

Now competing under 18 years old, Shady is the reigning champion in Grade D riding Inshallah. He placed 6th with him last season, 1996/1997. Some other victories include conquering 1st and 2nd places riding Layla and Adel 1993/1994. Last but not least is Nahla competing under 14 years old. She won 1st title with Ghazal in 1994/1995. This season, 1997/1998 she came 2nd riding Lady in both showjumping and dressage and 5th on Barbie Girl in jumping.

Well this season has been a fruitful one for the Sawaf family, so lets keep our fingers crossed for them next year. And so a final word of advice - if you want continuous success, then do it the Sawaf style.

# ROYAL BEACH AND ITS SUNSHINE TOUR

A few horses, some fences to jump and a couple of riders. That's not exactly how Royal Beach began. Amre Eid, founder and owner, built the extensive Royal Beach Equestrian Center in Rasr Sidr, 1995 and further expanded in the Ferousia Club. Together with trainer Samir Abdel Fattah, they decided to buy and train horses, to be able to compete on an international level. "I love horses," says Mr. Eid, "and my dream is to see Egyptian riders win titles and competitions abroad."

Based on the Royal Beach success in the Sakkara Show Jumping Competition, November '97, the decision of traveling to participate in the Sunshine Circuit in Spain was made. Both Eid and S. Abdel Fattah believe that international exposure is essential, and after the Sakkara achievements, they decided to compete with the Royal Beach horses abroad to compare their standards against international levels.

"First came the choice of the horses", says trainer S. Abdel Fattah, "and accordingly were the riders matched." The 3 horses chosen to travel were Royal Beach Cupid and Royal Beach Grace Kelly, both ridden by Karim Habashi, and Royal Beach Madonna ridden by Adham Hammad, who also competed with a non Royal Beach horse owned by his Greek sponsor, as well as his own, Last chance II.



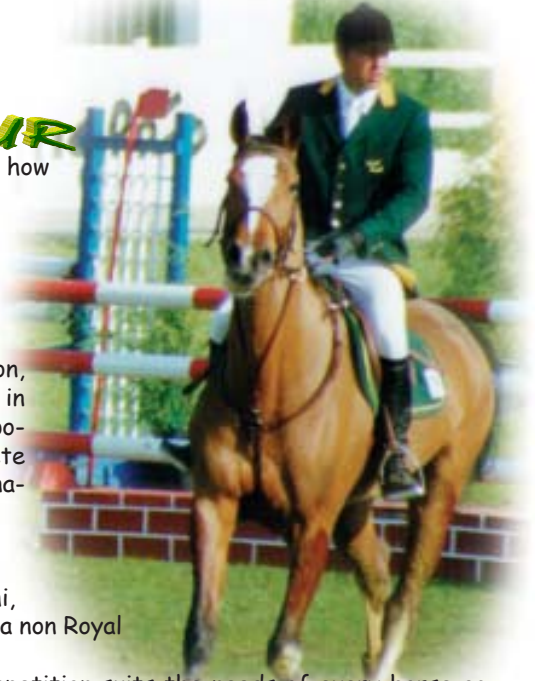
Royal Beach Team In Spain

(From Left S. Acdel Fattah, A. Hammad, K. Habashi, A. Eid)

"We were placed 15 times, ranging from second to thirteenth" says S. Abdel Fattah, who considers the Sunshine experience beneficial for both horse and rider. "Myself, I could feel the shivers down my spine every time the Egyptian flag was raised," says Eid, "so just imagine the feeling of Hammad and Habashi themselves."

Royal Beach is now appointed as the Middle East agent for the Sunshine Tour, with ITTA Tours responsible for air transportation. S. Abdel Fattah hopes that next year's trip to the Sunshine competition, will include more Egyptian riders, both amateur and experienced. "I've reached to the top of the sport with British riders. Now my aim is to achieve the same level of success with Egyptian riders, however difficult it may be."

Meanwhile, all three Royal Beach horses are grazing in the Dutch lowlands, relaxing from the Sunshine experience. But not for too long, as both Hammad and Habashi will be back in Europe in the summer time for more show jumping.



"The Sunshine Circuit competition suits the needs of every horse according to his age and experience," says Habashi. "For example, Royal Beach Grace Kelly being only 5 years old jumped fences between 115-125 cm, whilst six year olds Royal Beach Cupid and Royal Beach Madonna went up to 135 cm.

Again, Eid stresses his opinion about competing abroad and offers his full support to competitions such as Sakkara International show where Egyptian and foreign riders mix together.

The overall result of the Egyptian riders was very honorable, with the Egyptian flag raised for 1st place four times.



Habashi & R.B Cupid



Hammad & R.B Maddona

## EL AMIR RACE

11th April 1998



Considered to be the most prominent race of the year, El Amir Race is held on a yearly basis in either the Gezira or the Shams racing tracks. This year's race took place in the Gezira Club, offering total prize money of 150,000 Egyptian Pounds to be divided amongst the winners. The race consisted of 7 rounds on the first day and 5 rounds on the second, with distances varying from 1000 - 1900m. Of the 70 race horses competing, Admiral Nabil, a 4 year old Thoroughbred owned by AL Ahram stables, raced his way to the top place, winning 30,000 L.E. prize money for the 1900m race.

Shown above is Washwasha a 3 year old Thoroughbred owned by El Gawahergy Stables. Washwasha has previously won 2 races and this year won first place in the 1200m race along with 9,000 L.E prize money.





# Presidential Guard Equestre Club

Dated back to as early as 1912, the Presidential Guard Equestrian Force played an important role in the King's daily life. They acted as the King's main protection, leading and following him on horseback to secure his way. This eventually changed with time, and soon evolved the development of the motorcade, thus decreasing the need for the King's horses and men. This led to the Presidential Guards only appearing scarcely, in national ceremonies or in special shows where the riders and horses demonstrated their skills by performing the "Kalla" game, show jumping or dressage. Meanwhile, Presidential Guard riders did compete

in national competitions, with General Abdel Karim Sadek and General Yousef Abou Gazia as the most prominent riders of the time. This ended however, in 1972 and Presidential Guard riders went back to appearing only in ceremonies or special performances.

After 15 years of absence, Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Moselhi made a comeback competing in national competitions from 1987 continuously to 1992, thus reviving the Presidential Guard Equestrian activities. However due to work conditions, Lieu. Col. Moselhi left the Presidential Guards by the end of 1992, and it was not until late 1996 that he once again joined the Presidential Guard Equestrian team. By that time, the number of riders representing the Presidential Guards totaled 6 led by Lieu. Col. Moselhi himself. Before leaving the Presidential Guards in 1992, Lieu. Col. Moselhi opened the first riding school, solely for the children of the Presidential Guards. It was renewed several times, first in 1994 and further again in 1995, but it was not until late 1997, after Lieu. Col. Moselhi's return that vast changes were made.

The place became known as "Presidential Guard Equestre Club" and was officially opened for public admission on 14 December 1997, but with certain membership rules. A board of directors, led by Chief of Presidential Guards Horses, General Mahmoud Khalaf and managed by Lieu. Col. Moselhi run the club. The club is fully equipped with all the necessary equestrian needs, most supplies being shipped in from abroad. To meet the demands of the 50 horses and 10 ponies, there are three working paddocks (2 sand and one grass), a complete tack room, 2 walkers and 2 transportation cars. Lighting and sound systems are set up around the working arenas as well as an equestrian clothing store. The list is endless. Future plans include building a 30 x 60m indoor arena, supplying the library with most updated equestrian books and videos, installing the computer billboard system for use in future competitions and hopefully hosting an international competition next year.

The Presidential Guard Equestre Club has come a long way, developing and undergoing many changes along the way. Its distinguished image today is considered as most honorable and presentable amongst equestrian standards in Egypt.



Lieutenant Colonel Moselhi riding Shorouk

## An Arabian Affair



Al Badeia Arabian Horse Farm is considered to be the oldest private breeding farm in Egypt. Located in Tere'et El Mansoureyia in Giza, the farm has specialized in breeding pure blood Arabians since it opened in 1935. "We breed according to the horses type and quality", states Nasr Marei, the managing owner. Marei does much more than just run the farm. He is an active member of the Egyptian Arabian Horse Breeders Association (EAHBA), and helps organize local shows as well as participate in them. "It's been 10 years today since I started introducing my horses to local shows," states Marei, "and the overall results are very honorable, a reassurance that I'm on the right track."

On March 13-14 1998, Sakkara Country Club hosted the Tenth Annual Show for the EAHBA. 120 horses participated representing around 15 breeders. All horses were divided into 16 different classes according to age and sex to be further judged. Marei himself, participated with 14 of his horses. "This is the 4th time in a row to win 1st place as far as number of classes and championships are concerned" says Marei proudly. 13 year old stallion Farid Al Badeia (shown left), was a favorite among the judges. Having won 4 consecutive shows in a row, his offspring too have had their share of success in the show ring.

On training a horse for showing, Marei advises to begin at least three months prior to the event. "The horse has to be disciplined enough to obey the orders inside the ring, stand squarely, move gracefully etc." he adds. Marei always supervises the training of all his horses himself to ensure that they are well schooled.

However, his search for the perfect horse continues. "Dealing with Arabian horses brings me a lot of satisfaction," expresses Marei, "and I would not like to have done otherwise."

# EVERGREEN

Born in 1929, General Ghazi graduated from the Military College as a cavalry officer full of ambition to compete and become an international rider. "It takes years and years of dedication and hard work to become a professional rider," says General Ghazi.

Reminiscing the picture, General Ghazi tells us the story. Shown right is General Ghazi riding Mabrouk, a 10 year old Hanoverian, whom he broke and schooled himself. Together with General Gamal Hares and General Mohamed Selim Zaki, (riding Nefertiti & Artos ) the threesome traveled to participate in the Salso Maggoire Nations Cup in Italy, prior to the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome. With fences as high as 140 - 160 cm in the Nations Cup, the riders could train their horses to ensure their top condition, a few months before the Olympics.

Out of 21 countries participating in the 1960 Rome Olympics, only 6 teams reached the finals with the remaining 15 countries eliminated. " We finished 4th" says General Ghazi smiling proudly. "Back then " he continues, " the Olympics were much more complicated than nowadays. Today they take the best 3 results out of the 4 riders. For us, being only 3 riders, if one rider messed up, that meant team elimination." International Show Jumping for General Ghazi started as early as summer of 1956, where he participated in the Nations Cup Series in Austria and in Switzerland, further on to Champion du Monde in Germany, and finally the Olympics in Stockholm, riding Cleopatra. 1960 was a victorious year for General Ghazi on Mabrouk conquering 4th place in the Olympics in Rome. Due to Federation complications, the Egyptian team did not compete in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, even though they had trained for it by taking part in the Olympic Ribbon series, summer of 1963, beginning from France and ending in Spain.

General Ghazi continued to compete locally for 2 more years, then retired content with a most fulfilling show jumping past. He was elected Secretary General of the Equestrian Federation, 1992 -1996. Being a strong believer himself of competing in International Events abroad, General Ghazi sent the Egyptian team on 7 trips throughout the 4 years. 1992 in Qatar and in Aqaba, 1993 Vichy Grand Prix in France, and in Syria (without horses), 1995 in Australia (w/o horses), 1996 in Iran (w/o horses), and again in Vichy Grand Prix in France. Although General Ghazi does not actually mount, he rides all the time. Mentally and not physically that is. Watching others, he constantly finds himself advising them and feels that it is he who is riding instead.



## International News



EVENT: HELSINKI - WORLD CUP FINAL, TOTAL RESULTS

Date 19 April 1998 - Classification WC F - Country FINLAND  
Prize-money CHF 320000 + Volvo Car

RANK	RIDER	NATION	HORSE	POINTS
1	Rodrigo Pessoa	BRA	L.P Baloubet du Rouet	20.0
2	Lars Nieberg	GER	Esprit FRH	17.0
3	Ludger Beerbaum	GER	P.S. Priamos	15.0
4	René Tebbel	GER	Radiator	12.5
4	Richard Spooner	USA	Cosino H	12.5
6	Leslie Howard	USA	S'Blieft	10.5

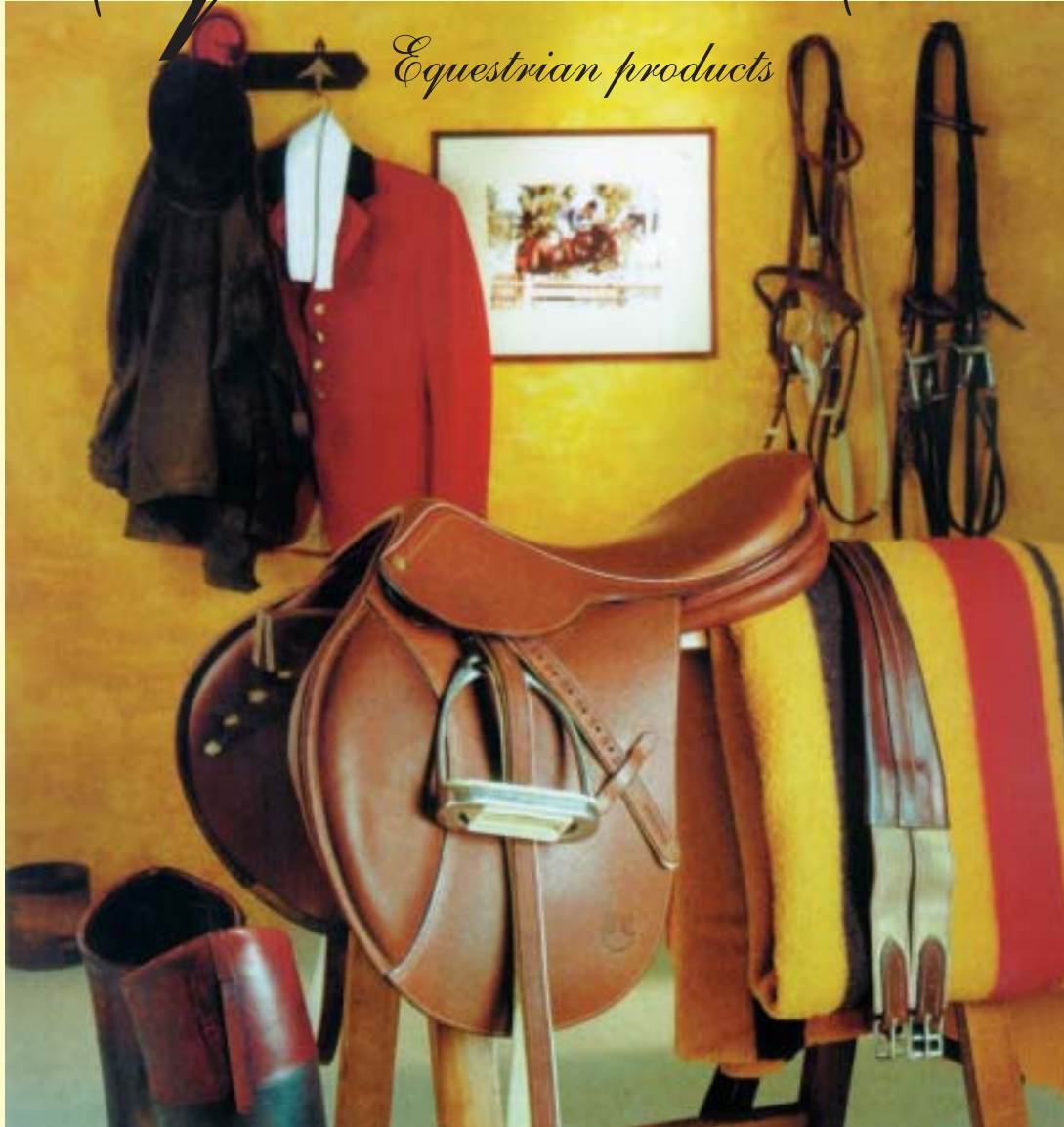
Volvo has been the title sponsor of the World Cup for Jumping Riders since the series started in 1978. In 1990, Volvo also took over the sponsorship of the World Cup in Dressage, thereby becoming the world's foremost sponsor of equestrian sports.

Qualifying competitions for both Volvo World Cups are held all over the world. In the 1997/98 season there was a total of 120 Jumping competitions on all continents, 34 in Europe, 30 in North America, 11 in South America, 5 in Africa, 12 in Asia and 28 in Australia/New Zealand. In Dressage there were 13 competitions in Europe and over 20 in the US, Canada and Australia.

The best riders from all qualifying leagues in both Volvo World Cups competed in the World Finals, which were held in 1998 in Helsinki, Finland (Jumping) and Gothenburg, Sweden (Dressage). About 45 riders competed in the Jumping Final and about 15 in the Dressage Final.



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