

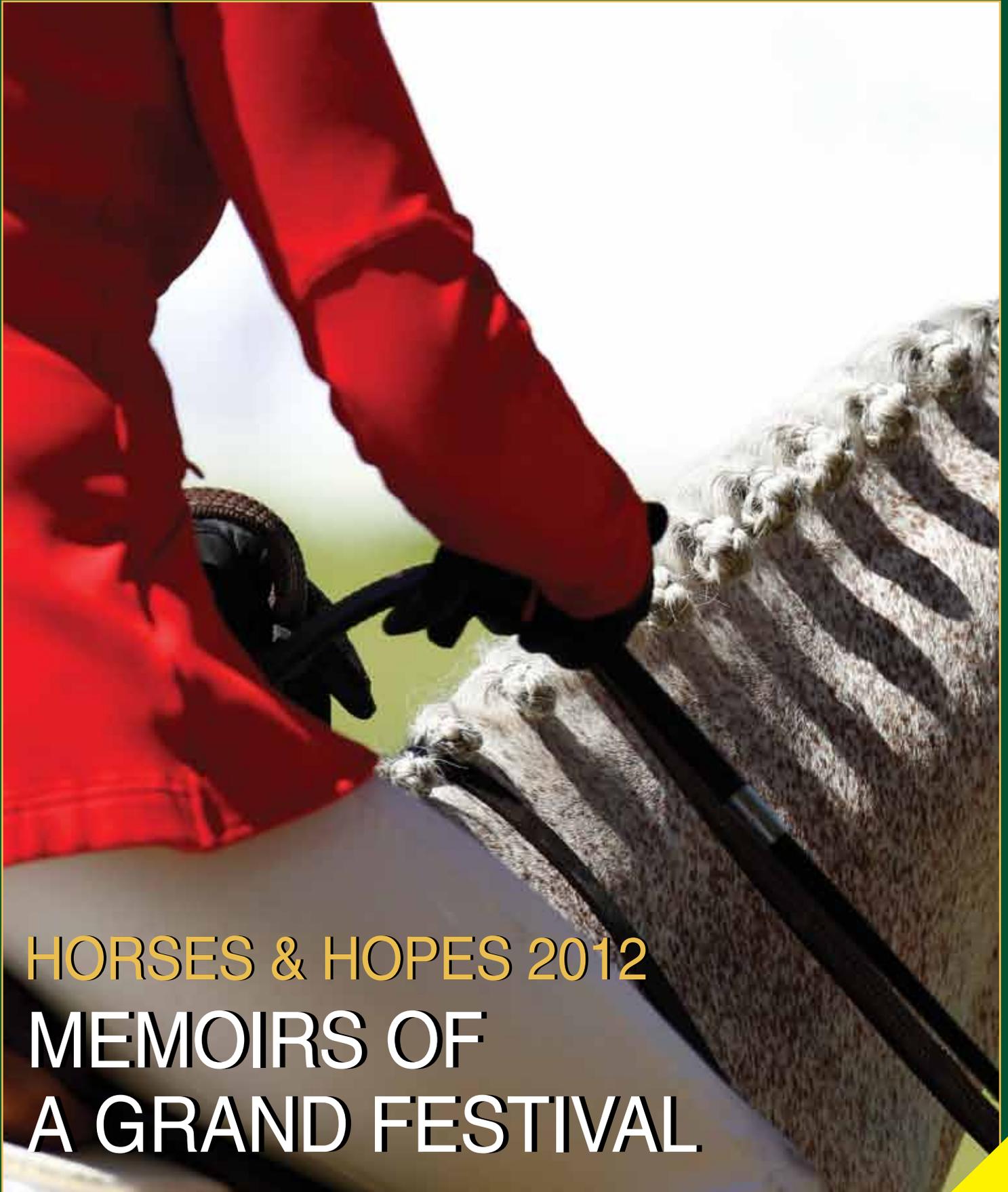
HORSE TIMES



no. **39**

Summer 2012

THE MOST RENOWNED EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE IN THE MIDDLE EAST



HORSES & HOPES 2012 MEMOIRS OF A GRAND FESTIVAL

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VIEW POINT

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Readers,

What a thrilling and challenging experience to organise an international show jumping event on a broader level, blending professional equestrian sport with entertainment and charity; read all about it in my HORSES & HOPES memoirs and refer to our website to see a video highlighting the whole Festival.

Jacques Toffi has many friends. They have taken the opportunity to wish him a happy birthday, with “passion and appreciation”, in a piece that pays tribute to his three decades of photographic achievements.

Everyone will be pleased that Eric Lamaze has begun writing his Rolex and Olympic diary and we feature the first instalment here, then we move to another discipline with polo from Dubai with the KBL Dubai Polo Gold Cup.

Cymon Taylor, HORSE TIMES' official photographer at the London equestrian events will be using 'PHASE ONE' cameras at the Games and inside he explains the creative and technical aspects of such a compact state-of-the-art medium format camera. We remind you that the magazine is the only one in the Middle East that will have an official and professional photographer present at the Games to bring to our readers and viewers the most exclusive images from all disciplines to be featured in our “Olympic Edition” fall issue 40.

In this summer issue we also feature a touchy but important subject regarding the European Ban on the import of Egyptian horses; find out about all the

details as we have been getting many enquires about the topic – while also referring to the link for the full report in the article and on our website.

Alternative therapy and a new approach for sport horses can indeed be useful; discover the magic of Reiki from Mrs. Lady Coleen Heller who is a great story teller and one who tells us about her experience.

Dr. Emir Chaher, or 'Dr. Oz for horses' as I would like to call him, will give you very useful medical tips regarding Veterinary Regenerative Medicine. You can now ask him any questions by sending to medical@horsetimesegypt.com and in return the answers will be published in our news section on the website.

Dr. Sherbini always ends the magazine's features with his regular training piece, and we end the issue with an editorial about the 2012 Dubai Arabian Horse Fair.

We hope you read on and enjoy this summer issue 39.

Sincerely,

Khaled Assem

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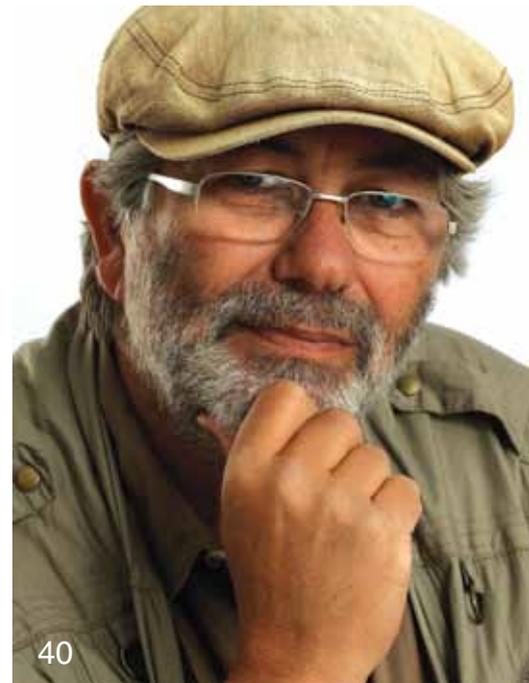
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2012

CSI1* (A) - CAIRO, EGYPT

HORSES & HOPES
INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING FESTIVAL 27. 28 APRIL 2012

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HORSES & HOPES 2012

MEMOIRS OF A GRAND FESTIVAL

By Khaled Assem



THINKING BACK, IT HAS BEEN QUITE A FEW YEARS SINCE I GOT INVOLVED IN HOSTING OR ORGANISING AN INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING EVENT. WAS IT THE RIGHT TIME I ASKED MYSELF? THE ANSWER WAS: LET'S PUT UP THE PROPOSAL, THE WORK PLAN, AND THE TEAMS OF RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE TO COOPERATE WITH, AND SEE HOW THINGS DEVELOP! THE FOLLOWING ARE BASIC MEMORIES AND TAKE-AWAY TIPS ABOUT ORGANISING HORSES & HOPES CSI 1*(A)-CAIRO INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING FESTIVAL, THE CHALLENGES FACED, THE SMILES AND EMOTIONS THAT CAME ABOUT AFTER, AND WHAT MANY PEOPLE HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE EVENT AS A WHOLE.

I wrote down all the names of people I would trust to work with and created a chart with most of the requirements that were needed to put together a show. It was crucial that my organising team was intact before I moved a step further.

To start off and to help in technicalities, I thought of Eng. Samir Abdelfatah, Chef d'Equipe of the Egyptian show jumping team, a good friend, a man with miles of experience in this field, and a man with wits that are always useful when the going gets tough. What was of the utmost importance was to call Eng. Hesham Hattab, President of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation, to discuss with him all my thoughts and get all his support and approvals, knowing that the man has his own share of difficulties. To my surprise, there was no hesitation whatsoever from his side – in fact, he was clear, straight, and quick to say, “Khaled, you have my full support – just keep me involved; I don't want any surprises.”

I called Nada H. Abdelmoniem, HORSE TIMES' Managing Editor and my good friend, to update her with my shocking ideas and some of my reflections. She jumped at the idea like her usual self, but mentioned, “Khaled, this is great but all this comes with an awful lot of work and responsibilities; are you ready for that?” Naturally, Khaled wasn't ready but was never going to say so.

I was determined to do this right if I were to go through with it at all. I researched several companies that were specialised in the business of organising events and came across

R Group Advertising headed by Amr El Abd who was actually recommended to me by someone in the field. Upon meeting him, I knew that his approach was what I needed to make this work. I wanted to focus on what I do best and hand over logistics to him.

With all the commotion going on in Egypt and due to the experience of HORSE TIMES attending and covering Global Champions Tour events several times, I knew that I had to deliver something more spectacular and fun for all, and not just the ordinary – and for some reason, the idea of a combined event, indeed a “Festival”, including a fashion show, seemed to be a great one.

Samir and I composed the rest of

the events, the JUMP & DRIVE and the 6 Bar competitions and we orchestrated the tunes and melodies of the Festival. Nada took charge of foreign riders from A to Z; invitations, tickets, itineraries, hotel bookings, and the whole works, while our designer Salonaz Sakr had to come up with a new logo to suit the idea of the festival.

Now this part of the story is the most fascinating. I came across the Special Olympics through Mr. Zohair Ammar who is one of the professional gentlemen that I have worked with during an event I shared in organising, Club 55, and the late rider and mentor Paul Darragh. Somehow the story of those boys touched my heart and it became a part of the programme.



Ferosia Club in Zamalek

Consequently, the Special Olympics brought another “emotional flash”. Why not create a team of two – rider and driver, for the JUMP & DRIVE instead of just one where approximately 15 to 20 riders would be teamed with renowned businessmen who would drive and donate \$ 200 each to go to the Children’s Cancer Hospital in Egypt? This....was a great twist to a highly worthy cause.

The good causes aside, I promise you that finding “sponsors and a budget” is 50% of the work in this domain. Reviewing the balance sheets over and over and trying to see the unexpected, oh boy....that was out of my league, yet somehow it all seemed possible. The trick was to stay calm and focused, not to let anyone see you panicking, fearful that it might all “unravel at the very end”. At least, this is how things happen in Egypt, and with fingers crossed it all worked – sometimes with great difficulties, and at times, with great ease.

I believe that the magic is in the details, the continuous perseverance and striving to do one’s best. Coming up with the name HORSES & HOPES was the cream on top. All went so well, foreign riders had a great time, Egyptian riders were thrilled, and the audience was super high and sometimes in tears with all the emotions around the special young Olympians. My team and I feel proud that we created HORSES & HOPES, gave the equestrian world a kick, made the boys from the Special Olympics happy, and hopefully....added a smile to some children suffering from cancer. It all makes a lot of sense. So yes, the time was right for HORSES & HOPES, despite the uncertainties and hesitations surrounding us, and the difficulties of planning and executing such an event, it was time to get back to work, to “get back in the saddle”, to show resilience, strength and professionalism, as well as charity and fun. To give hope for the sport, hope for the needy and hope for Egypt.



Eng. Samir Abdelfatah & Dr. Emir Chaher, FEI Vet



Nada H. Abdelmoniem & Khaled Assem

SENTIMENTS ABOUT EGYPT:

MIGUEL BRAVO:

I was very happy to come back to Egypt as I have competed here twice in the past and it was really great to feel this crazy town Cairo again; its traffic, the mad drivers blowing their horns as well as feeling a bit of history. I look forward to coming back again.

PETER FRIJSINGER:

I wondered to myself why on earth Khaled would want to host an international event under the circumstances Egypt is going through – but my wife Anita and I have been to the country many times and we always love coming back.

DR. EMIR CHAHER:

A good networking opportunity in a relaxing atmosphere, showing a modern and lifestyle-oriented Cairo. I would be honoured to come to the next HORSES & HOPES.

LAURENCE JACQUET:

We loved going to different authentic Egyptian restaurants, on a Feloca (boat cruise) on the Nile, and we were also lucky to visit the Pyramids, the Sphinx and the Cairo Museum.... such great memories. I would love to come back again.

NURI DIJKS:

I didn't know what it would be like to go to a show in Egypt because I never visited before but I thought it was a really nice opportunity to meet some new people!

MANUEL FERNANDEZ SARO:

It was great fun and enjoyed by all of us, particularly the pyramids! It was nice to see different sides to Cairo and not only the showground!

TONY HANQUINQUANT:

I was very happy to visit an unknown country.



Portugal's Miguel Bravo, 2nd place in the Small Grand Prix



Holland's Sjaak van der Lei



Holland's Tom Martens, 13th place in Small Grand Prix

SJAAK VAN DER LEI:

I thought it was fantastic that people from Egypt do such different shows to bring the sport more together. I would definitely like to come again.

ELLEN VAN GUYSE:

We had great fun from the beginning till the end! I hope my boss sends me next year!

TOM MARTENS:

It was good to get to know other riders and people from Egypt, and to also get to learn about Egyptian food and culture and it would be good to come back.

KARIM FARES:

It was a pleasure and a breath of fresh air to be in Cairo in this lovely and friendly festival. I honestly loved it and wish I could have stayed more.

ALEXANDRA LEDERMANN:

I was warmly welcomed more than in any other country and this journey made me discover plenty of Egyptian wonders, as well as meeting new wonderful friends. Would I like to come back to Egypt again? YES!

VERONICA RESCA:

It was my first time to visit Cairo and I was so excited about the competition and the opportunity to visit the city and its surroundings.

EUGENIO GRIMALDI:

I've already been to Egypt a couple of times for show jumping competitions and I've always been impressed by the professionalism and kindness of people.

ALI AL KHORAFI:

I was very happy to receive an invitation; Egypt is a beautiful country and it was a good chance for me to ride there.



Italy's Veronica Resca

BADER AL FAIZ:

It is always wonderful to be in Cairo amongst great people and riders.

LUIS ALONSO:

My friends and I felt like home, everything went perfectly; the hotel, meals, show horses, the organisation, and the places we visited on the tour. Can I come again with my wife?

JUAN ZAMORA:

It was very good to be able to be in Cairo and see its culture.



Spain's guest Jorge Escudero & international photographers Luis Alonso & Juan Zamora



Spain's Manuel Fernandez Saro, 4th place in Big Tour



Egypt's Dr. Sameh El Dahan, 2nd place in Big Tour

FEROSIA CLUB & GROUNDS:

MIGUEL BRAVO:

It's a small club that was transformed into a big one in a few hours, but the ground was a bit loose.

PETER FRIJSINGER:

It is a super place in a nice area in Cairo, although I think the stables need to be renovated soon. The competition and warming-up arenas are generally amazing rings but I also think they need more levelling and water. If fully taken care of, the club would have Olympic grounds potential.

DR. EMIR CHAHER:

It is traditional and has a family atmosphere. Its location is prime as it's in the downtown area. It had some aspects of charming decline except with dignity. The grounds were generally fine although a bit thin and needed more watering and underlying mats.

TONY HANQUINQUANT:

It is a nice club where we saw that all good is done for the horses' comfort (ventilators in their rooms, for example). The grounds were good but needed to be watered a long time before the show.

WAEEL EL MAHGARY:

It was great to hear that Ferosia will host an international show as I have always considered this club to be the most important equestrian club in Egypt. It represents plenty of history and it was an achievement to see the first international event in Cairo hosted there.

SJAAK VAN DER LEI:

The club was well prepared and the organisation put on a top show for the riders as well as the public, although the grounds were too dry for the horses.

ELLEN VAN GUYSE:



Egypt's Wael El Mahgary, winner of the 6 Bar Competition at 185 cm

It is difficult to judge as I didn't really see the stables and I was at my booth most of the time. But the three rings looked really nice and all the pre-festival days and nights of preparation created really nice results eventually. The ground was a bit deeper than we are used to.

MANUEL FERNANDEZ SARO:

My immediate thoughts about Ferosia Club were about the location. Great to have a facility like that right in the centre of the city. Although the club is old, the organisation did an amazing job to transform it for the show.

AHMED TALAAT:

The grounds could have been better. They needed more maintenance. In my opinion, we were doing too many things at the event such that we did not give the grounds enough attention. Although it was not so bad as to affect the show. Hopefully next time we will give them all the attention they need.

TOM MARTENS:

The first day I arrived (two days before the festival) everybody was still working hard at the club. The second day the place started to look like a show arena already. The day of competition, the club was transformed with all the branding and preparations. It looked really nice; I was impressed with how the festival grounds and arena eventually looked in only two days. The footing was a little bit too dry which is why it got a bit too loose during competition, and that was the same problem in the warming-up ring.

AHMED SABRY:

I thought it would be a great show because Ferosia Club has a great international arena and the event brought about a new opportunity as we haven't had international shows in Cairo for a long time.

KARIM FARES:

The moment you step into the club you feel that it carries historical value



Egypt's Karim Abdelfattah



Lebanon's Karim Fares



Egypt's Yehia Fahmi, winner of the Grand Prix



Olympic bronze medallist, France's Alexandra Ledermann, 10th in the Grand Prix

in the equestrian circle. You might feel that it has been in the middle of Cairo since the Pharaonic era! I think it was established in the 30s and it was natural to feel such history. If boxes and arenas of Ferosia Club could speak, they would tell riders so many stories about the equestrian heritage of Egypt. What remains in my impression is not how good or bad the ground, the trophies or fences were, but the enthusiasm and work reflected by the result of all these elements.

KARIM EL SOBKY:

I got very excited about the idea especially when I knew that Khaled and Samir were the organisers.

ALEXANDRA LEDERMANN:

Ferosia Club is a beautiful club where horses are well taken care of, with comfortable bedding, air-cooling fans, automatic drinking trough, concentrated horse feed, and strange exotic green hay (what is the name?!). The horses are in great shape, I'd rather be a horse in Ferosia Club than a horse pulling a tourist cart in Cairo's streets any day! The show ground is very impressive and on a par with those found in Europe. The main arena and the collecting ring are both very large, and the grounds resemble those used in most of the professional European shows: fiber sand. One piece of advice I'd give is that I believe that the quality could be improved further by humidifying the ground before the show.

VERONICA RESCA:

I was impressed by the efficient organisation and how they impeccably managed the outline of the show.

SAMEH EL DAHAN:

I was very excited as we haven't had any international shows in Egypt for a long time; equestrian sport in Egypt needs to become bigger and by organising such shows they can only get better.

FAHAD AL EID:

I came to the club three days prior to the festival and I was genuinely surprised with how the organising team managed to brand it to suit the theme of the whole festival. It was really an honour for me and other riders to be present at such a club. The grounds were a little dry but technically, the arena does the job.

ALI AL KHORAFI:

I thought the club was beautiful and everyone who worked there had plenty of experience. Its location is also perfect; it's directly opposite to the beautiful river Nile.

TOMAZ TABERNIK:

It was a nice surprise, firstly because there weren't many shows this year and secondly because the organising team that prepared the festival was guaranteed to produce a good show.

BADER AL FAIZ:

It is one of the oldest clubs in Egypt that carries plenty of history and authenticity. In a couple of days, it was transformed from being a local yet vintage club, to an international one with a lot of feelings.

LUIS ALONSO:

I found it to be a perfect setting for such an event, although maybe the board can improve the lighting so photographers can do a better job at night?

ALAA WAZIRY:

I was so happy to hear that an international event was taking place in Cairo as it has been a very long time since we had one in Egypt. More importantly, there were foreign riders who participated which made competitions more challenging.

JUAN ZAMORA:

Ferosia Club is an excellent club with comfortable facilities, plenty for the horses, and warmth from visitors and riders.



Slovenia's Tomaz Tabernik



Ireland's Joan Allen & Egypt's Alaa Waziry



France's Tony Hanquiquant



Egypt's Dr. Karim El Sobky, winner of the Big Tour & 2nd place in the Grand Prix

YEHIA FAHMI:

I was very happy and enthusiastic to hear about an International event being held at the club. It's one of the most beautiful clubs we have in Egypt and it was a brilliant showcase for our sport.

MOHAMED SABRY:

I was very excited because we haven't had such a well organised and fun show for a long time in Egypt.

AHMED SULTAN:

I was happy and it was good for me to ride there.

FENCES & TROPHIES:

AHMED TALAAT:

It was really nice to see all the fences branded to suit the logo of HORSES & HOPES and I was happy to see that here in Egypt for the first time. They were fantastic. The whole event was really nice. It was my first show in Egypt since 2009; I was a little bit away from the riders and horses.

MIGUEL BRAVO:

The fences were perfect, and the trophies were very nice.

DR. EMIR CHAHER:

The fences were quite standard but eye catching as they were designed to suit the logo of the festival. The trophies were very distinct, noble and elegant. In all, the overall HORSES & HOPES branding was great.

KARIM EL SOBKY:

The arena looked fabulous with the fences all new and flashy; the trophies were also so nice and chic.

FAHAD AL EID:

I thought it was a very smart idea to brand the fences to suit the logo of HORSES & HOPES as well as the sponsoring companies. The majority

of sponsors had their own fences, how else could they be attracted to participate?

TONY HANQUINQUANT:

The fences were classically prepared and the trophies were very beautiful.

MANUEL FERNANDEZ SARO:

The fences were of a good standard and the trophies were very nice.

SJAAK VAN DER LEI:

The trophies looked very good but I did not do enough to win one!

YEHIA FAHMI:

The fences were sublime and gave a beautiful "look" to the event as a whole. The trophies were very "original" as they weren't your typical cup trophy.

ELLEN VAN GUYSE:

The fences branded to suit the HORSES & HOPES logo were a really nice concept; we don't see this much in Europe so it was really nice to witness creativity. The trophies were very nice too; unfortunately we couldn't bring one to Belgium!

LUIS ALONSO:

I thought the clocks were a little exaggerated.

MOHAMED SABRY:

I loved the trophies and the way the fences were designed to present the names of the sponsors; that gave us the feel of a genuine international event.

TOM MARTENS:

The fences in the main ring were really nicely painted and all had the logo of HORSES & HOPES. As for the trophies, I didn't really see from near because I didn't win one! But the clock we could have won looked really nice and also the stable plates!

ALEXANDRA LEDERMANN:



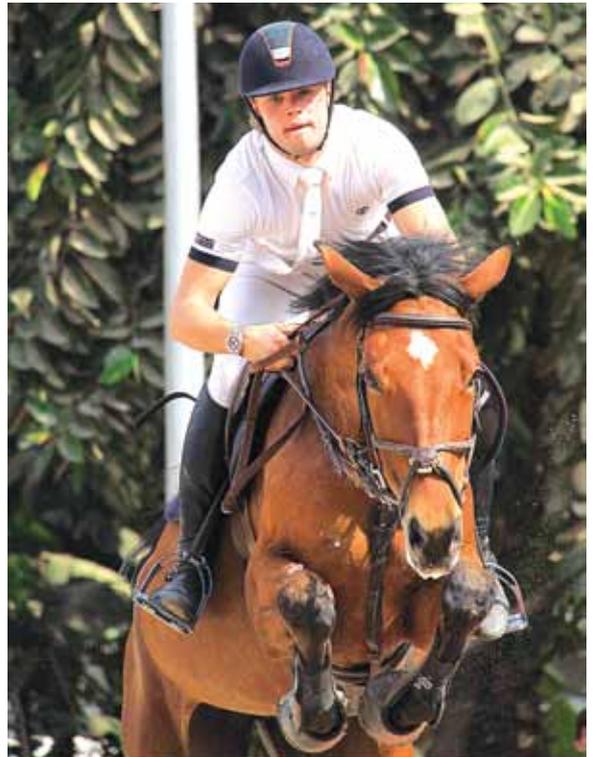
Saudi's Rayaan bin Rayes



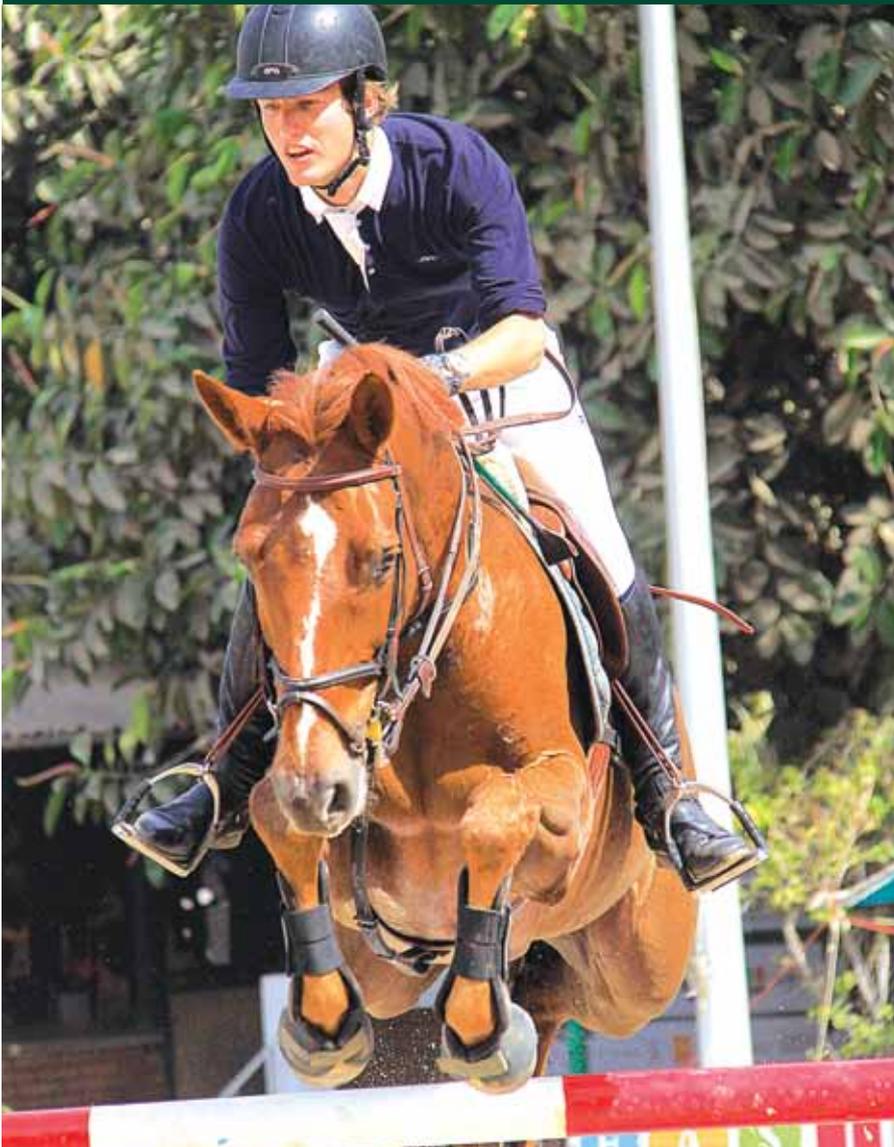
Kuwait's Ali Al Khorafi



The Dutch clan with international trainer & horse dealer Peter Frijsinger



Holland's Nuri Dijks, 5th in Small Grand Prix



France's Brendan Benro, 4th in Small Grand Prix

The fences and jumps were beautiful, and the trophies seemed to be attractive...unfortunately I didn't manage to catch one!

Wael El Mahgary:

The fences were all of international standard; their quality and colours were impressive. The trophies were also very well made whilst also, again, representing the festival and the club, and they were something to be proud to have at home.

Bader Al Faiz:

I loved how the fences and trophies were branded with the HORSES & HOPES logo.

Veronica Resca:

The designs of the fences were of high quality and so were the trophies.

Ahmed Sabry:

The fences were produced nicely and professionally. I liked how they were branded as per sponsor. The trophies were really nice and presentable as well.

Sameh El Dahan:

The trophies were really nice and creative. A tiny comment on the fences though; they could've used a set of different colours.

TOMAZ TABERNIK:

Very colourful and nice for the eyes.

AHMED SULTAN:

The fences were good. I think the trophies were great as well.

ALAA WAZIRY:

They were all new and shiny clean!

ALI AL KHORAFI:

It seems that many efforts were exerted to make everything look beautiful and branded. The idea of branding the fences to suit the festival's logo and sponsoring companies was very smart and creative.

LEVEL OF SPORT LOCALLY:

MIGUEL BRAVO:

I often see Egyptian riders all year round in some main shows in Europe. There are great competitive riders such as Sameh El Dahan who I was so happy to see competing at the World Cup Final this year and riding that mare Pepperpot who was bred by my wife Marion in our stud Hughes Horse Stud. It was also great to see many riders doing a proper job. It's a huge boom to the Arab world and its equestrian sport evolution in the last 15 years. The results are all there.

PETER FRIJSINGER:

Egyptian riders are good and there were a few high level horses too.

DR. EMIR CHAHER:

I was positively surprised by the level of riding by Egyptians. They are talented riders that do not take themselves too seriously which allows them to enjoy the competitions as if they were in a family gathering. There were some good horses too with underrated potentials.



Egypt's Ahmed Bassioni



Egypt's Shady Samir & the StatSoft-ME & Symantec team



Egypt's Zeinab Abdelhameed



Egypt's Mohamed Osama El Boraai, winner of Small Tour

TONY HANQUINQUANT:

I saw good riders and good horses.

SJAAK VAN DER LEI:

Egypt has some really good riders with a lot a feeling.

ELLEN VAN GUYSE:

I was really positively surprised about them.

JUAN ZAMORA:

I saw great levels of riding and I liked how there was a big number of young riders.

TOM MARTENS:

Egypt has some good riders. I don't think there is such a big difference in level between Europe and Egypt. The levels are nearly the same. I think in a few years we will hear more and more about the Egyptian riders.

ALEXANDRA LEDERMANN:

I've been favourably impressed by the level of Egyptian riders. I saw several riders with fluid and elegant equitation, and very fast riding.

KARIM FARES:

Many of Egypt's riders are very good and close friends, what do you think I would say?

MANUEL FERNANDEZ SARO:

I was generally impressed by Egyptian riders and the overall standard of riding. It was a lot higher than I expected.

ORGANISATION:

MIGUEL BRAVO:

People always wore a big and very warm smile, organisation was perfect, and I was surprised with the high quality of professionalism that

the organising committee showed to the sponsors.

PETER FRIJSINGER:

They were all very friendly and social, and organisation was very good.

DR. EMIR CHAHER:

People at the festival were cheerful and in need of a reason to enjoy life. The organisation generated extraordinary engagement with a positive outcome. It was target-oriented, even in a cacophony of political and malignant obstacles. Thanks to all the team for the chance to be part of HORSES & HOPES.

NURI DIJKS:

The people and the organisation were just great! They did a super job to make a success of the show and to entertain their guests!

ALAA WAZIRY:

Organisation was successful; many efforts were exerted to get as many sponsors as possible. Really, well done.

LAURENCE JACQUET:

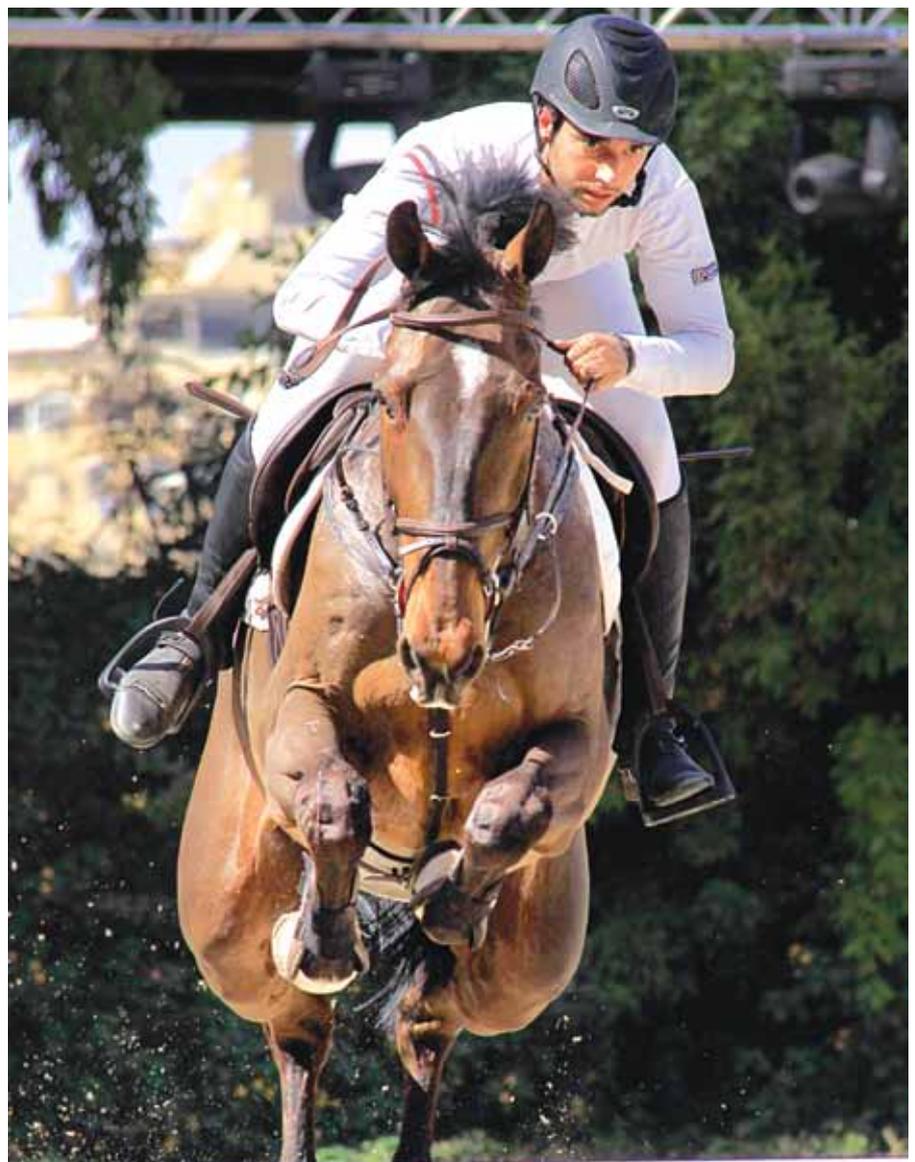
All the people we met were incredibly nice and doing their best to welcome us and, of course, they succeeded. The organisation of the show represented a lot of work; it was really comfortable with the tents and tables...and it was very pleasant to watch different entertaining activities besides the show jumping such as the JUMP & DRIVE, Arabian horses and the Special Olympics Team.

YEHIA FAHMI:

The festival was very well organised as it started according to schedule and the event came out very presentable in front of foreign riders.

TONY HANQUINQUANT:

Everyone we met was so nice, so devoted to our comfort which



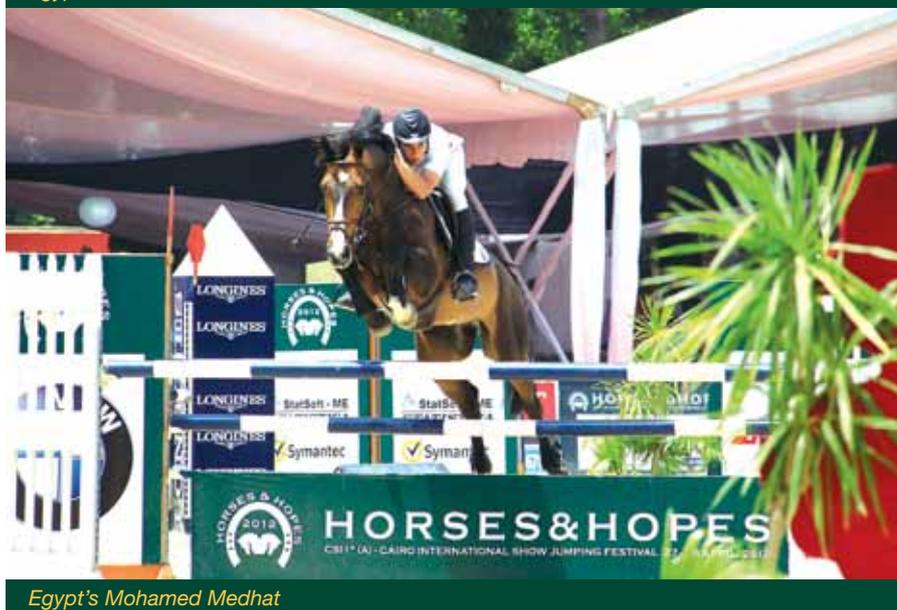
Egypt's Mohamed Sabry, 2nd place winner of the 6 Bar Competition & 3rd in Grand Prix



Saudi's Fahad Al Eid



Egypt's Abdelrahman Ikram



Egypt's Mohamed Medhat

was really kind of them, and the organisation of the show was really well done.

SJAAK VAN DER LEI:

One word: FANTASTIC.

TOMAZ TABERNIK:

Was done on a much higher level than what we are used to locally.

FAHAD AL EID:

My impressions are very good. There was no lack in kindness and hospitality.

ELLEN VAN GUYSE:

Truthfully, the organising team was SO amazing, everybody was unbelievably friendly, nice and so helpful. We had great fun from the beginning till the end! The organisation of the show was done really well and anyone could tell that the whole team tried really hard and managed to make a pretty show. And for a first edition of HORSES & HOPES... "WOW" is the word. Really, a great job done!

SAMEH EL DAHAN:

Organisation was great, bearing in mind that this was the first time to organise an international show with a variety of other entertaining activities.

TOM MARTENS:

The people there were really kind people and the whole festival was well organised. Organisation should do more shows like this one.

KARIM EL SOBKY:

The idea of a festival is new for show jumping competitions in Egypt and I think it attracts spectators from outside the sport which is exactly what we need.

KARIM FARES:

Everyone was very welcoming and hospitality was at its peak. I was also happy to see my Egyptian rider



Moments at HORSES & HOPES

colleagues and friends; they are always fun at shows.

MANUEL FERNANDEZ SARO:

The people and organisation from the show were extremely friendly and helpful. Everybody went out of their way to look after us and make us feel welcome; their hospitality was second to none.

ALEXANDRA LEDERMANN:

We were warmly welcomed by the organising team which spared no effort to make our stay as pleasant as possible. The festival was very attractive for both riders and the public who were able to enjoy a great variety of entertainment such as a wonderful fashion show, JUMP & DRIVE, Arabians horses, the Special Olympics Team, and much more.

VERONICA RESCA:

In the spectator area next to the competition arena there was a sparkling atmosphere with a great

quality of table organisation, food and heartiness. The fashion show was a great idea to complete the festival and provided a little bit of a good and healthy distraction from the competition, especially for the men! Generally speaking, everybody was so nice and friendly.

MOHAMED SABRY:

I have to say it was very well organised and I enjoyed every moment.

EUGENIO GRIMALDI:

The whole event has been an extremely elegant success; both riders and the public had the chance to enjoy the competition and its glamorous activities. I was extremely positively impressed and I was grateful for the professionalism and kindness expressed.

ALI AL KHORAFI:

The hospitality from organisation was overwhelming, really.

BADER AL FAIZ:

All was done very well for a first time; imagine the next HORSES & HOPES? Thanks to everyone who worked very hard to make the festival a success.

LUIS ALONSO:

Perfect. If there was ever a problem, it was immediately settled.

JUAN ZAMORA:

All was done perfectly and luxuriously. It was apparent to all.

AHMED SABRY:

I think organisation of such events should always be done by private companies; when compared to other events, anyone could see the difference in quality.

AHMED SULTAN:

I think it was a good step for a private company to organise a big festival



Italy's Eugenio Grimaldi, 5th place winner of GP & Mohamed Sedky



Tom Martens & Ellen van Guys of Stephex, & Ali Al Khorafi

like this.

WAEEL EL MAHGARY:

Everything was well organised. Details were taken care of and the personal feeling of private ownership was clear which made it a better show.

CITY TOURS & COMMENTS:

MIGUEL BRAVO:

They were all plenty of fun; I felt that organisation was really doing its best to entertain us and I would like to thank Nada for that and for her kindness during my stay.

PETER FRIJSINGER:

They were very good; in Europe they can learn from this and how social outings are prepared! We had fun with Nuri, Sjaak and Davey dancing, and they had a lovely time.

MANUEL FERNANDEZ SARO:

The only other thing I think could possibly be improved is maybe a slightly larger pool of horses for the invited riders so that maybe they have two horses per rider.

DR. EMIR CHAHER:

To me personally, it was a good networking opportunity in a relaxing atmosphere, showing a modern and lifestyle-oriented Cairo. Some of the outings extended until too late in the night which reduced the needed sleep time. It would be desirable to have more interaction with local riders, owners and sponsors in the future.

RAYAAN BIN RAYES:

I have competed at many international shows and it was good experience for me to be at HORSES & HOPES. It is very difficult for me to keep up between studying and

training, but it was a good break for me to be here. I would like to thank Khaled and Samir for organising this amazing festival, I truly enjoyed it very much.

TONY HANQUINQUANT:

We were very lucky to see Cairo nights in fancy bars, and very lucky to go to authentic restaurants, and of course, we saw the Pyramids!

SJAAK VAN DER LEI:

Well, truth is, I did hear from other riders that there was much more to see!

ELLEN VAN GUYSE:

I totally loved the idea of going out all together every evening. It was so nice, we had plenty of fun.

FAHAD AL EID:

I would like to thank Khaled and Samir for their hospitality, Nada who I think



Miguel Bravo gifted his trophy to the Special Olympics riding team who were thrilled by the gesture

was a major sturdy engine behind the event, and everyone who has worked hard to make the whole festival a success. The atmosphere at HORSES & HOPES was not just horse oriented, it was family and humanly oriented as Khaled – may God bless him - came up with two incredible causes: to give the Special Olympics Team a chance to ride in front of spectators, and to generate money from the JUMP & DRIVE competition to donate to the Cancer Hospital. Really, this festival has left a lasting impression.

TOM MARTENS:

They were really fun. It was good to get to know other riders and people from the group, and to also get to learn about Egyptian food and culture. I would like to thank organisation and Nada for everything they did for us. I had, like all others, a super time in Cairo!

KARIM FARES:

They were fun and pleasant social outings. Cairo by night is like Venice by day. I also thought it was a good opportunity to catch up with my old friend Samir after such a long time. Nada from the organising team was simply a superstar and I still cannot figure out where she gets all this energy from to get to be the bionic woman that she is. I thank her and Khaled for all.

ALEXANDRA LEDERMANN:

We have been very spoiled with a number of outings that allowed us to enjoy Cairo's night scene and meet the inhabitants of the city, as well as the essential visits to many Egyptians wonders. I would like to thank Khaled and Nada for the wonderful stay we had in Cairo!

VERONICA RESCA:

I would like to thank Mohamed

Sedky who gave me the opportunity to be at HORSES & HOPES, and everyone else who worked hard; I appreciate all the sides of this festival and I would be happy to return next year. Thanks to Nada for her helpfulness and great warmth.

EUGENIO GRIMALDI:

I'd like to thank the organising team for the invitation, especially Mohamed Sedky, a great horse owner and good friend. On his horses I achieved two great results at HORSES & HOPES: fifth place in the Big tour of the 1st day and fifth place in the big Grand Prix.

ALI AL KHORAFI:

I would like to thank Nada, Khaled and Samir for their continuous kindness during my stay. Nada was extremely worried about my eating habits and always encouraged me to eat and always made sure that



Ahmed Talaat in action during the 6 Bar competition

everything was spot on from the day I arrived until the day I left.

BADER AL FAIZ:

Thanks to everyone who worked very hard to make the festival a success; organisers Khaled, Samir and Nada who was very attentive to all details, and all hospitable riders and kind grooms.

LEVEL OF COURSES:

Wael El Mahgary:

The courses were technical and hopefully by the next HORSES & HOPES Egypt would have solved its horse ban problem, and we can have international riders come with their horses.

Karim El Sobky:

The level was perfect, technical enough and up to international standards.

Yehia Fahmi:

The level of technicality was more than fair.

Tomaz Tabernik:

Some horses were not good enough for the courses designed even though I understand that it was hard to have plenty of good borrowed horses.

Mohamed Sabry:

I believe the courses were technical enough putting in consideration the borrowed horse issue.

Ahmed Talaat:

The key is always the first class on the first day; who is doing what and who is riding which horse and then you can estimate how the horses would jump. They did OK the first day and I did not have a lot of clear rounds, but it didn't stop me from

reading how the show was going to go the second day for the Grand Prix. Some of the horses were not up to the standard and it was the first time for the foreign riders to sit on those horses and actually the first time for some of the horses to jump big levels. I guess the course was designed technically enough.

Sameh El Dahhan:

Courses were really up to the show level, Ahmed Talaat built a high average Grand Prix but very technical which made everybody work for clear rounds, trying at only one double clear to win. This meant that it was a decent track.

Alaa Waziry:

Foreign riders added a challenging atmosphere to the competition. One of my horses, Solid Choice, was ridden by Nuri Dijks and they were placed 5th in the Small Grand Prix.



Legends Gen. Gamal Harres & Gen. Mohamed Selim Zaki with Eng. Hesham Hattab, President of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation

AHMED SABRY:

I saw that all foreign riders that were there were experienced and professional and, as such, had the ability to cope with all borrowed horses and the technicalities of the course.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS:

YEHIA FAHMI:

What I liked the most about the festival was the attention to details...I felt that everything was thought about and well taken care of.

ALAA WAZIRY:

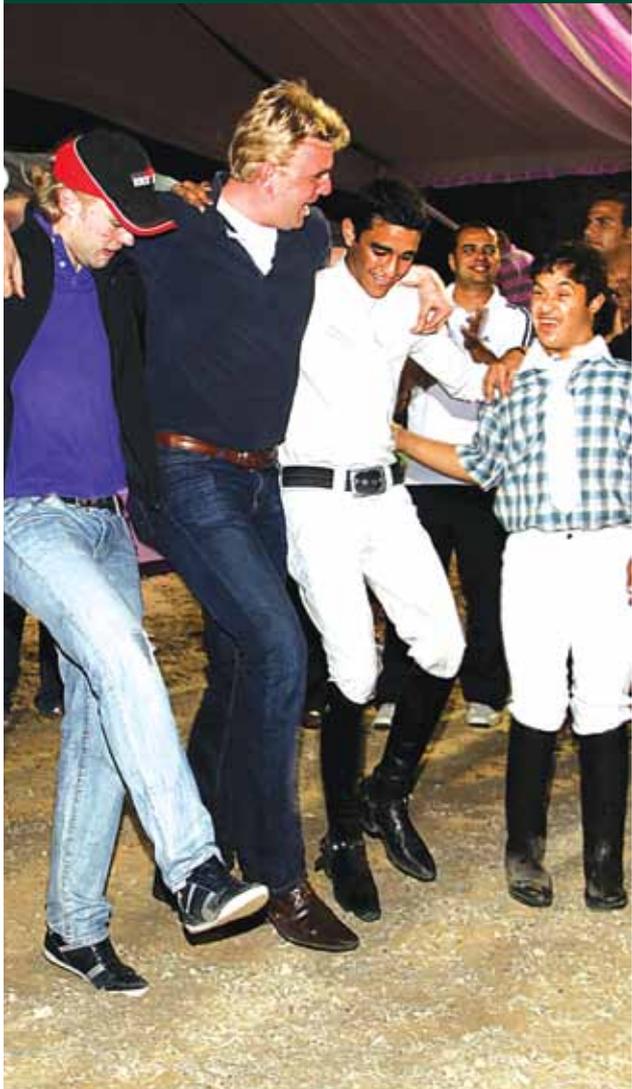
I liked a lot of things in the festival, for example the programme; the staff was professional and friendly at the same time to all visitors and riders. Although what I liked the most was that organisation remembered to honour legendary show jumping figures such as Gen. Gamal Harres and Gen. Mohamed Selim Zaki. It was so touching and I



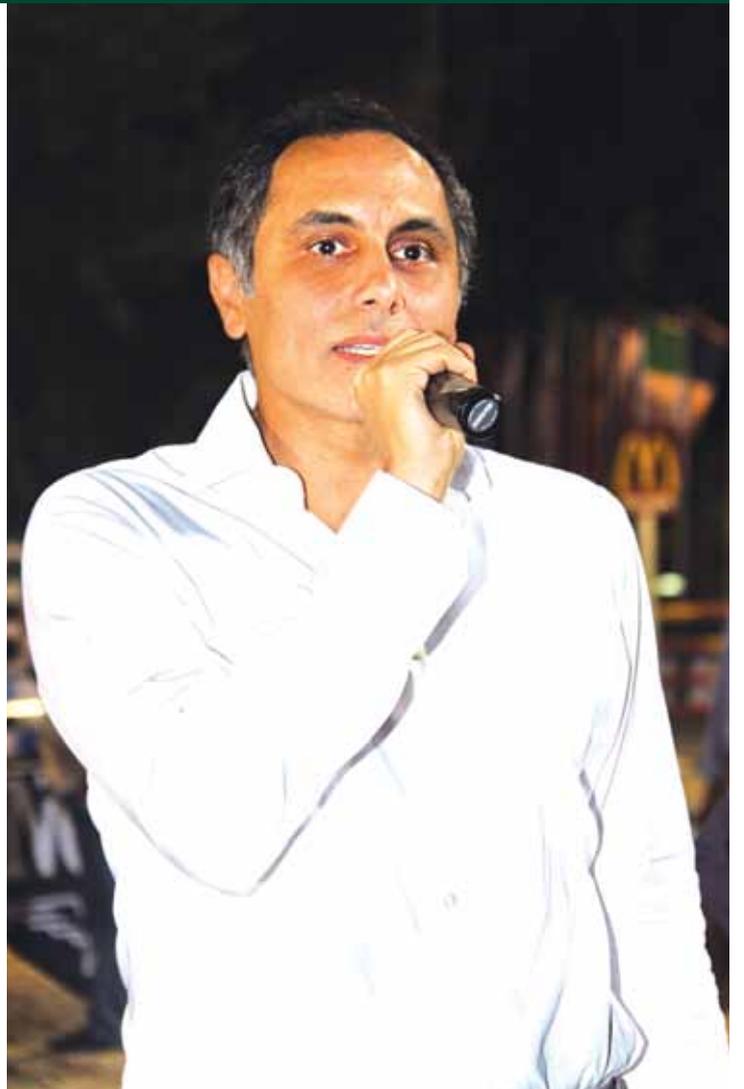
A run for the car during the JUMP & DRIVE Competition



The Special Olympics riding team with their trainer, Manal Wahid



Nuri Dijks & Sjaak van der Lei dance with the Special Olympics



Khaled Nosseir, President of the Special Olympics Egypt



Famed designer Hany El Behairy with his models & Zues the horse, after the completion of the Fashion Show





Alaa Waziry drove that BMW around the course in style!

very much appreciated that.

SAMEH EL DAHAN:

The JUMP & DRIVE was good fun especially that my team mate Joanne Sloan-Allen participated and was placed, she really enjoyed it as well. The atmosphere of the show was ecstatic and a lot of people were watching the show, which, as I always say, is what makes a show a successful one.

AHMED SABRY:

I liked the atmosphere of the show, the professional organisation, and the show itself not going on for too many unnecessary hours without other entertaining activities. I certainly look forward to ride at other HORSES & HOPES.

WAEEL EL MAHGARY:

Everything was great. I have to thank everyone who worked on producing such an event and I always hope for better.

MOHAMED SABRY:

The great crowd, in my humble opinion.

TOMAZ TABERNIK:

The atmosphere, the hospitality and everything surrounding the show.

KARIM EL SOBKY:

The whole festival was memorable, it was perfect.

AHMED TALAAT:

I built several 6 bars in my course designing career, but I was worried about the one at the show as the director of the show Khaled Assem was really concerned! He wanted a clear round, so asked me not to do something difficult or tight! All went well, we had 8 clear rounds out of 22 and the highest jump was 185cm! The riders smiled, the director smiled, and so did the spectators and sponsors. I was also happy with the fashion show for example. It gave me the feeling of an indoor show. Indoor shows don't take much time and organisers have time to arrange

for other activities. I was actually a little unlucky! I was building the courses whilst the models were on the catwalk! Everything else was really great. 🍀

HORSES & HOPES OFFICIALS:

Honorary President: Eng. Hesham Hattab. President of Event: Mr. Ashraf El Sheiaty. Vice President of Event: Eng. Samir Abdelfatah. Event Director: Khaled Assem. Event Moderator: Dr. Mohamed Elsherbini & Mr. Ramy Iskander. Ground Jury: Gen. Mohamed Bakir, Dr. Abu Bakr Hashem, Mrs. Hanan El Derini & Brig. Shehab Murad. Foreign Judge: Mr. Ali Al Sharif. National Judges: Mr. Amr Beshir & Mr. Amr Sabry. Course Designers: Ahmed Talaat, Barnabas Hevesy & Ashraf Abdalla. Appeal Committee: Gen. Atef El Attar & Dr. Omar Hashem. FEI Steward: Mr. Bader Al Faiz. Chief Steward: Mr. Hossam Farag. Assistant Stewards: Mr. Wael Wagih, Mr. Ayman Wafik, Mr. Abdelhakim Abdelazim & Mr. Tarek Soliman. FEI Vet: Dr. Emir Chaher. FEI Vet Delegates: Dr. Hatem Settin & Dr. Mohamed Abdelaziz. Treating Vet: Dr. Amr Karamany. Medical Doctor: Dr. Mohamed El Meadawy.



Spectators at HORSES & HOPES



Alexandra Ledermann & Khaled Assem during the horse trials



Jorge Escudero visited Wadi El Rayan in Fayoom



Alexandra, Laurence & Tony having lunch by the Pyramids



Peace & love from all foreign guests who visited the Giza Pyramids

A note from the author: My team at the office is like a granite block in a Pyramid, each one carries weight and is interconnected to another and that is one way to keep everyone motivated because everyone is important, and interdependent. I would like to thank the following people for their unconditional support in organising HORSES & HOPES and for working around the clock: my mother Siham Moharram, my wife Lubna Dairanieh for keeping up with my dreams, my Office Manager Azza El Sharkawy,, Dr. Amr Karamany, my sister Sherine Assem, Sohaila Adel Salem, Dr. Mohamed Salah and Dr. Abu Bakr Hashem for their advice, Ramy Iskander, and all the men from Equicare.

I would also like to thank all the sponsors who made HORSES & HOPES possible. Platinum sponsors: Emaar Misr, BMW, Platinum Club Katameya, Sigma Capital, Fast Tours and Shoura Mubadala. Gold sponsors: Khodeir Egypt, McDonalds, Longines, Hyatt, Yellow Pages, Lifebuoy and Nile Takaful. Silver sponsors: Swiss Airlines, Bridgestone, Samsung, Headline, Germany's Bacher, EQUUS Solariums and Ramplemann & Spliethoff, Belgium's Stephex Stables, Fibers Club, the Brooke Hospital, Shaker Group, Cairo Cotton Center, Marina Group, Symantec, Eastwind Academy, Equine Lab, Vartan Jewelry, Italy's JER Stirrup, Frances Freejump and UNIC. Vendors: Deyafa (Abo Elseeyd, Tabasco), Cairo Sitters and Ladylicious, with Amici and Cairo Jazz Club for socially hosting international guests for two nights.

For the full results of the show jumping competitions, visit http://horsetimesegypt.com/horsetimes/news_details.asp?id=46 & to watch video highlights from the whole event, visit: http://horsetimesegypt.com/horsetimes/videos_details.asp?id=26



Manuel Fernandez Saro with his HORSES & HOPES ribbon



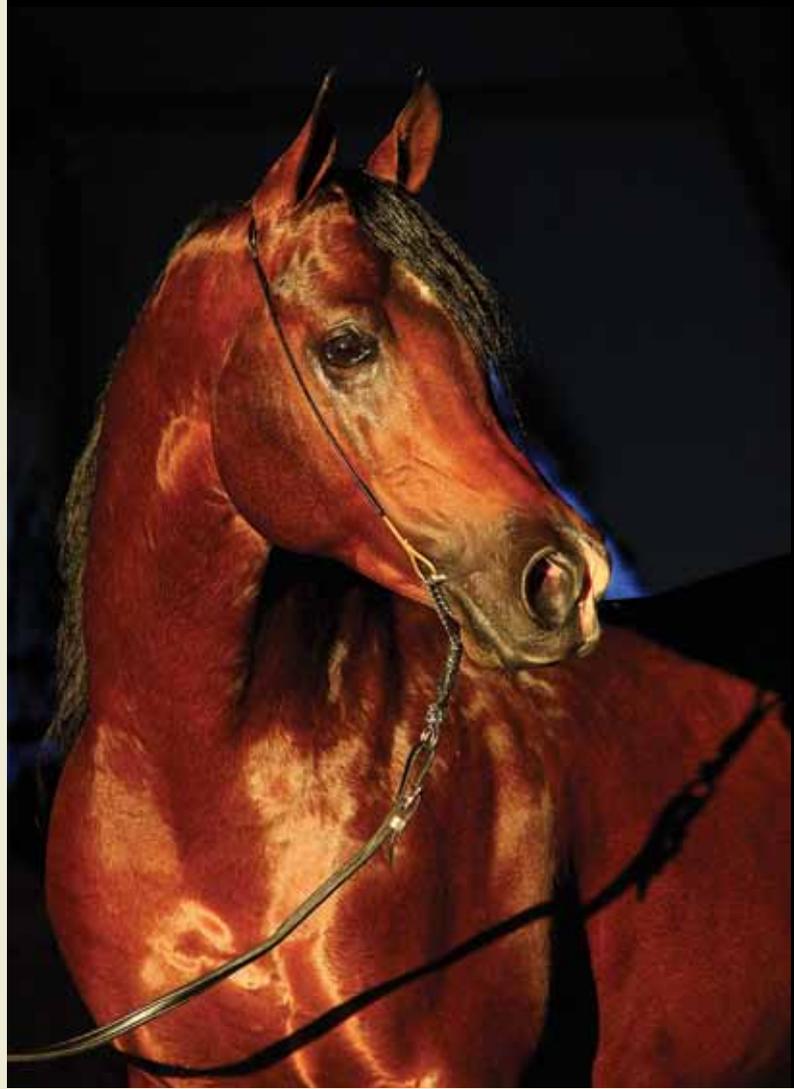
HORSES & HOPES

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LUIS ALONSO PHOTOGRAPHY



ALL PHOTOS TAKEN DURING HORSES & HOPES AND
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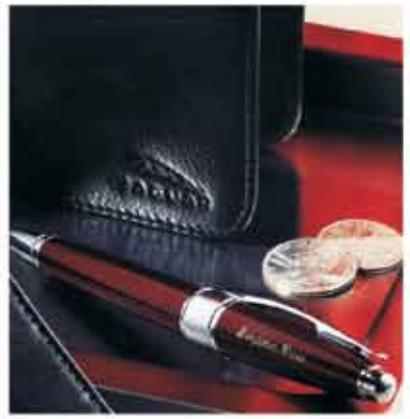
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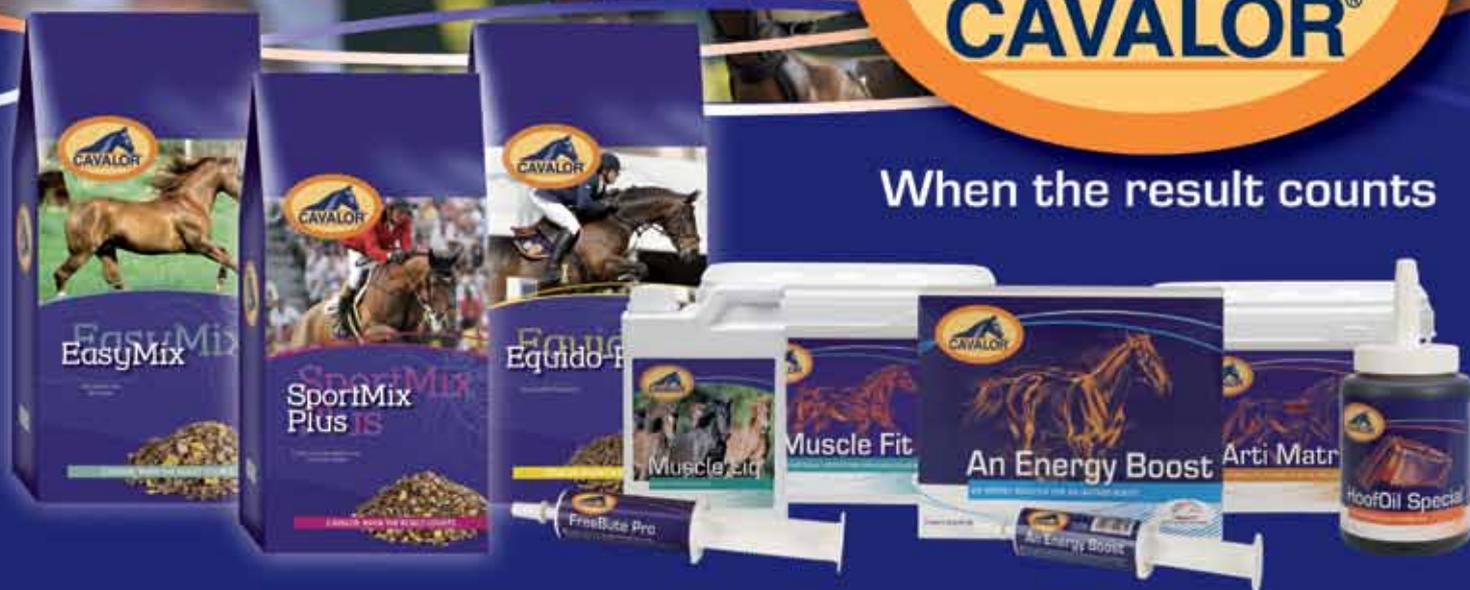
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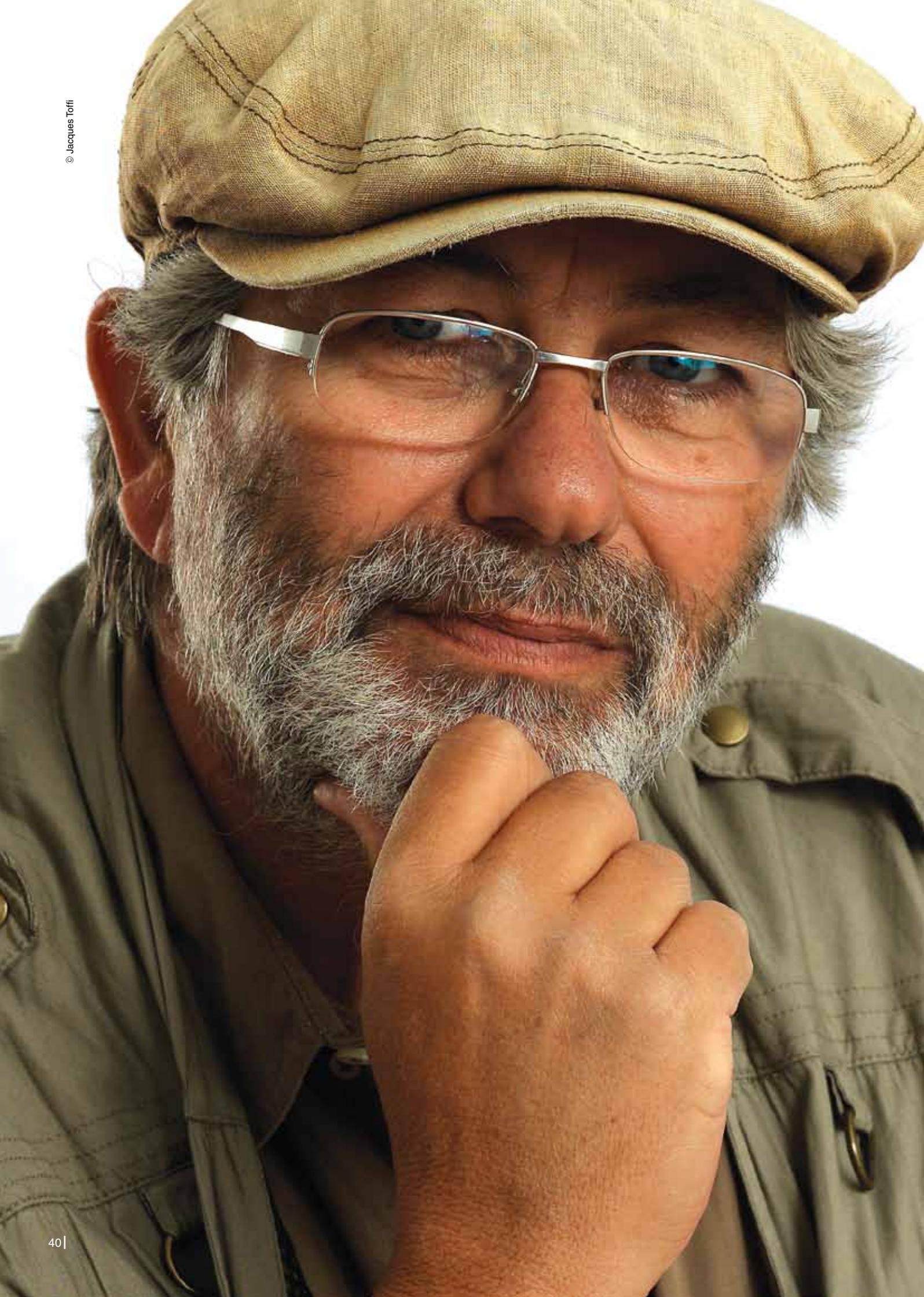
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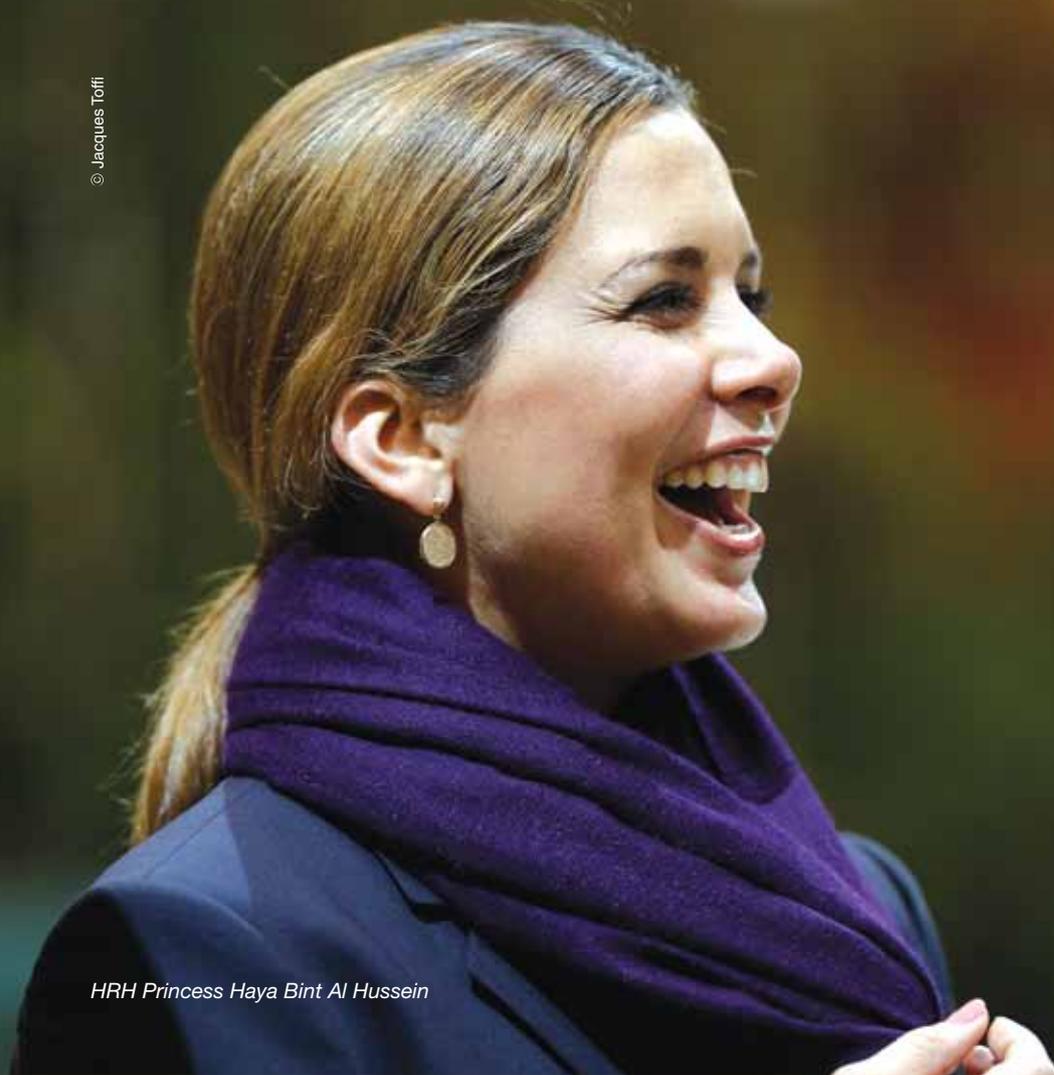
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THE REMARKABLE JACQUES TOFFI... A BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE

By Nada H. Abdelmoniem

THIS YEAR HORSE TIMES HONOURS THREE DECADES OF INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF JACQUES TOFFI, THE MAN WITH THE CONSTANT AND ICONIC SMILE, THE SALT AND PEPPER HAIR COVERED WITH THE FRENCH HAT, AND THE MAN WITH THE CIGAR IN ONE HAND AND THE CAMERA IN THE OTHER. IT WAS TOFFI'S 60TH BIRTHDAY BACK ON APRIL 18TH AND TODAY WE SAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND PAY TRIBUTE TO TOFFI WHO CREATES SHIMMERING STILLS THAT WOULD TAKE MORE THAN A HEFTY NOVEL TO DESCRIBE. THE FOLLOWING IMAGES ARE JUST A SMALL SELECTION OF PHOTOS FROM A MOUNTAIN OF GOLD, AND THE STATEMENTS ARE FROM THOSE WHO CARE FOR HIM DEEPLY AND WHO TOOK THE TIME TO WISH HIM ALL THE BEST.



HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein



Jean & Georges Toffi

HRH PRINCESS HAYA BINT AL HUSSEIN, FEI PRESIDENT, *Jordan:*

“A 60th birthday is, indeed, a wonderful occasion. Some may think of it as getting older, but I like to think that it’s just 40 with 20 years experience. I hope that with every passing day, you celebrate each moment with a renewed sense of self and zest for life. You have led 60 sensational years and along the way, you have paid homage to equestrian sport and have brilliantly illustrated every aspect of the horse and its world. For this, I personally thank you, and on this special day, wish you a very, very happy birthday.”

KHALED ASSEM, HORSE TIMES PUBLISHER, *Egypt:*

“Jacques, I see you as a human being, a mixture of several worlds and civilisations. This is your real strength, your feelings, and your profound ability to bring out what’s inside you through your work. Happy birthday.”

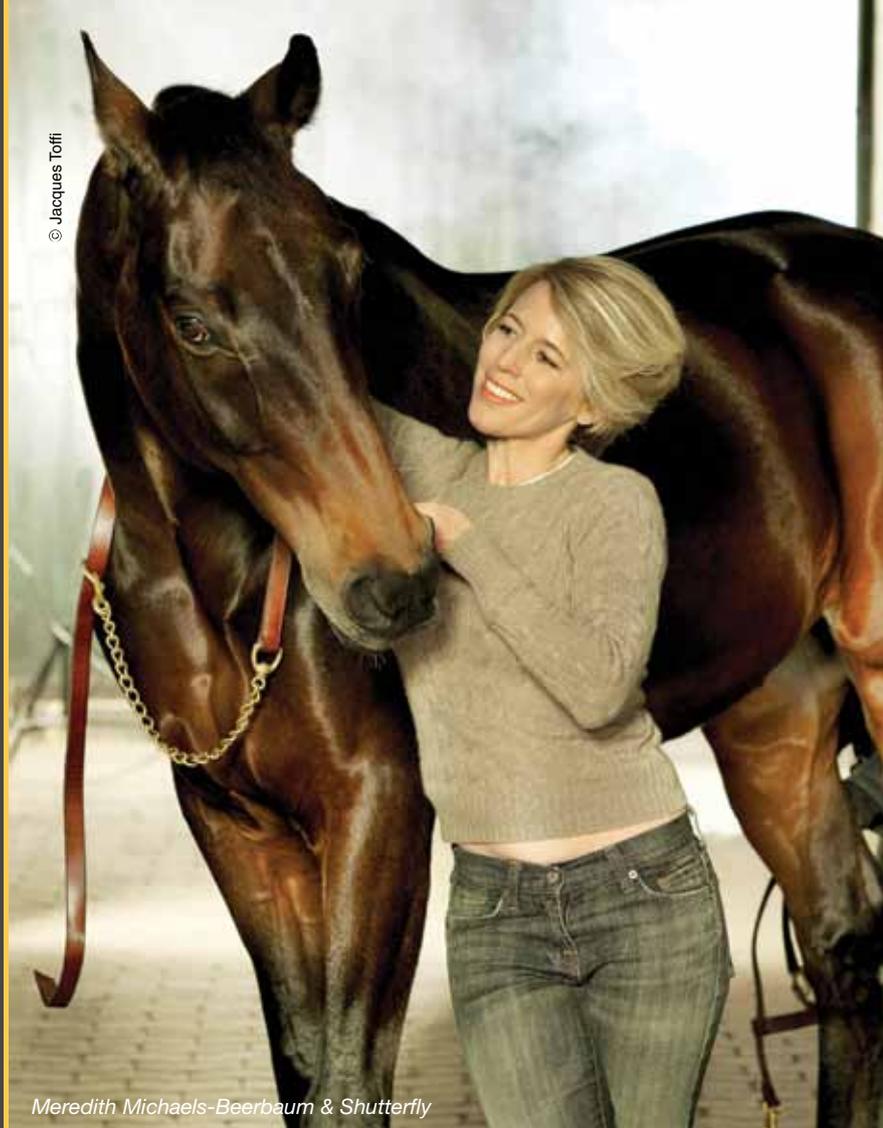
NADA H. ABDELMONIEM, HORSE TIMES MANAGING EDITOR, *Sudan:*

“Jacques, to me you are a loving individual who is wonderfully opinionated, a charming gentleman, very calm and serene. I first met you in 2007

when it was just my third year working at the magazine when I did not have much knowledge about equestrian photography. Following our first meeting and then meeting annually in Syria, I spent hours with you, learning about the technicalities of equestrian sport photography and how the shots should be presented both artistically and commercially. From there on and until today, your pictures have graced my eyes with beauty, art, and elegant vision which define the “spirit of the horse” in a unique and positive light. Happy 60th Toffi!”

SOENKE LAUTERBACH, GERMAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION SECRETARY-GENERAL, Germany:

“Throughout my professional career Jacques Toffi has been the role model of a horse photographer. He has the gift to shoot horses in these special moments, when beauty, strength and dignity altogether shine through. His photos simply create pure emotion. Jacques Toffi has a similar talent portraying people. His portrait of our Federation’s late Honorary President Dieter Count Landsberg-Velen smoking a pipe is “the” photo of all times for me. Apart from these skills Jacques Toffi is such a friendly and humble personality that you can only like him.”



© Jacques Toffi

Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum & Shutterfly

© Jacques Toffi



Dieter Count Landsberg-Velen



Paul Schockemöhle & Totilas

© Jacques Toffi



Uwe Heckmann

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Fadi Al Zbibi & Hazar Sabouni

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Prix De Diane Hermès

© Jacques Toffi



© Jacques Toffi



Polo in Hamburg



Rolf-Goran Bengtesson & Nirja

AHMED TALAAT, INTERNATIONAL COURSE DESIGNER, Egypt:

“Jacques Toffi is a valuable friend and the best photographer in our sport, in my opinion. I first met him in 2004 and I was impressed with his knowledge about the Arab region, his love for our culture, and his ideas for improving equestrian sport in the Middle East. I wish him all the best.”

STALL BENGTTSSON & KRISTOFFERSEN, INTERNATIONAL RIDER, Sweden & Germany:

“Dear Jacques, we wish you all the best on your 60th - we hope you will continue your superb work and hope to see you more often in the next years! Best regards.”

FADI AL ZBIBI, INTERNATIONAL RIDER, Syria:

“Toffi, you are a wonderful gentleman and super photographer. Every time I meet you at any show I feel happy. Even though you live in Europe, I feel proud that you have a sense of belonging to us. Happy birthday.”

PAULA DA SILVA, INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER, Italy:

“Jacques’ photography is never boring, and I am a fan of his experimental images with panning and blur, but also I have real fun looking at some of his other photos which are nearly surreal, and I can feel that he has big fun himself when he shoots them. In his photography I often find a mix of curiosity and irreverence, something that is typical of the people who are forever young.”



Laura Kraut & Cedric



LUDGER BEERBAUM, INTERNATIONAL RIDER, Germany:

“Dear Jacques, on the occasion of your 60th birthday, I wholeheartedly wish you all the best with all the best of health. You are a unique person with an outstanding talent in photography. I appreciate so much your passion for your work and our equestrian sport. Yours, Ludger.”

ARND BRONKHORST, INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER, Holland:

“Jacques is a free spirit, and that reflects in his photography. His eye is attracted to curves and shapes that other people don't see. He has experimented a lot, creating stunning images. He “feels” images and has the ability to turn that vision into great pictures. Congratulations, Jacques!”

FRÉDÉRIC CHÉHU, INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER, France:

“Not all photographers specialised in photographing horses are real artists. Without a doubt, Jacques is a real artist...He does not take pictures for the sake of taking pictures but to support a coherent and well built piece of art. From his oriental origins, he kept the fantasy, the exuberance and the warmth. From his German origins, he has learnt strictness and professionalism. On top of this, he is a real “cool” guy, which is something quite rare to find in artists who have succeeded. I simply adore him.” 🐾



© Jacques Toffi

Ludger Beerbaum



© Jacques Toffi



© Jacques Toffi

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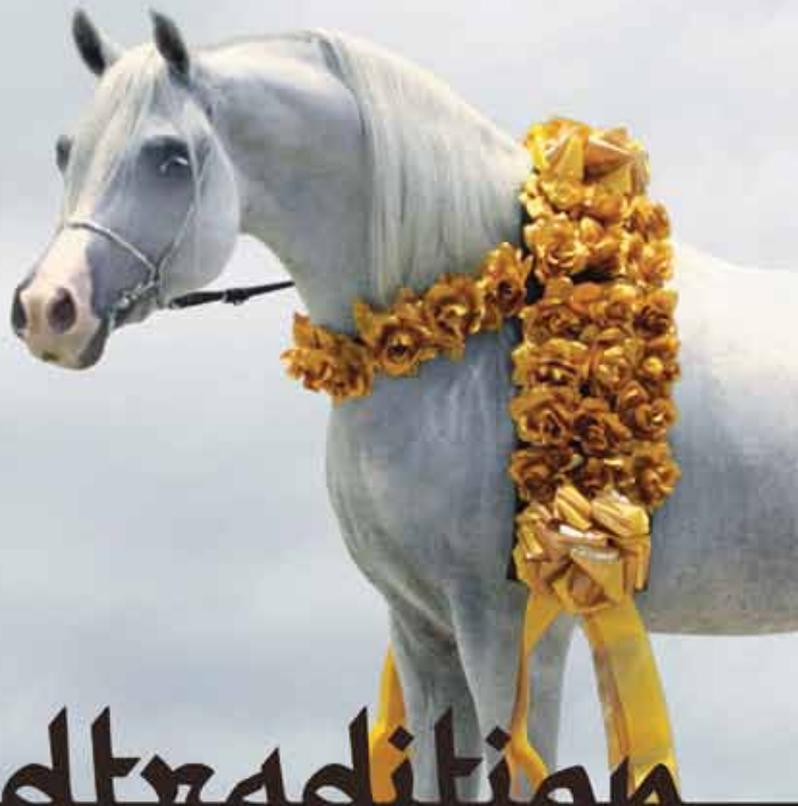
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STEPPING IT UP!

By Bridget McArdle McKinney

GONE WERE THE POLO CHEERLEADERS WITH THEIR GOLD POM-POMS, GONE WERE THE SKY-DIVING PRIZE COURIERS, GONE WERE THE POLO PASTICHE UNIFORMED ENTOURAGES AND POSEURS... THIS CUP EVENT, SPONSORED BY KBL, WAS SERIOUS, FOCUSED, PROFESSIONAL AND TO THE POINT. AND IT SHOWED – IN THE QUALITY OF PLAY, IN THE QUALITY OF PLAYERS, AND, I'D SAY, IN THE QUALITY OF THE SPECTATORS. NO LONGER "POLO LITE", DUBAI POLO GOLD CUP HAS STEPPED IT UP TO A NEW LEVEL.





▲ Zedan v. Abu Dhabi 5 to 4 in final qualifier

STEPPING ON UP!

As promised in our report on the Dubai Polo Gold Cup 2011 (HT Issue 35), we returned to the stunning grounds of the Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club for the third Dubai Polo Gold Cup and we sensed a change immediately. First, we noticed that many of the organisational teams in place last year were still in place this year and that means that the historical experience is being put to use and any issues of the past were, at least, recognised, if not addressed. It was good to see Tournament Director Santiago Torreguitar there amiably orchestrating the symphony of horses, players, matches, press, and sponsors. And, of course, the delightful and experienced commentator, Adam Snowden, the very helpful Isabel Arguelles and Cristina Gusita, and lively and exceptionally talented event photographer Annemieke Goos.

On the fields there were, of course, the tried and tested local polo teams returning for this Gold Cup, including Abu Dhabi Polo (patron, Faris Al Yabhouni), Bin Draï Polo (patron, Saeed bin Draï), Ghantoot Polo (patron, HH Sheikh Falah bin Zayed Al Nahyan), Habtoor Polo (patron, Mohammed Al Habtoor), Mahra Polo (patron, Rashid Al Habtoor), and

Zedan Polo (patron, Amr Zedan).

The Dubai Gold Cup Committee created an independent body to establish handicaps for this Dubai Gold Cup Series. The group included representatives from polo clubs from around Dubai, as well as the HPA (Hurlingham Polo Association, the governing body for polo in the UK) and referee Charles Seavill, chaired by Santiago Torreguitar. The Committee included:

Chairman – Santiago Torreguitar
 Member – Neils van Baasbank (Desert Palm)
 Member – Juan Roman (Ghantoot)
 Member – Charles Seavill (HPA)
 Member – Adam Snowden (Dubai Polo Club).

Noticeable was the rise in quality of patron play. Although only three UAE players rose in handicap ranking last year, we would have thought that Faris Al Yabhouni and Mohamed Al Habtoor might have been considered for a promotion last year, and we certainly expect to see close review of their efforts for next year's rankings. Special mention must be made of the quality of play of Amr Zedan in this tournament, particularly in the final and qualifier.

Noticeable also this year was the

stellar level of the polo professionals, including Ignacio Gonzalez, a 6 handicap playing for Mahra Polo; J.J. (Juan Jose) Brane, a 7 handicap playing for Bin Draï Polo; and Nachi Heguy, an 8 handicap playing for Zedan Polo.

NEW RECOGNITION BY THE WORLD POLO TOUR:

The strong sense I had of a heightened seriousness and professionalism was, of course, a combination of all of the above, the level and quality of the event organisation, teams, patrons and players, but I think there was also another important factor. The World Polo Tour (WPT), an international ranking of polo players, resolved to include the Dubai Polo Gold Cup in its lists as a Challenge Cup ranking event.

According to the WPT information, the WPT rankings "are not based on the quality or skill of the players involved, but rather on the rewards and showcases of those professionals and amateurs who have achieved success in a given calendar year in the most competitive polo tournaments around the world". Thirty points are earned by players winning the Dubai Polo Gold Cup. The WPT also announces monthly pro and amateur awards and we find that just before the start of play at the Dubai Polo Gold Cup, in February Faris Al Yabhouni, patron of Abu Dhabi Polo, was awarded top Amateur Player for his performance at the Royal Salute Nations Cup tournament in the UAE.

This international endorsement is a remarkable achievement for the Gold Cup after only three years since its inception, because it recognises the status of the tournament, it will attract high level international and local players, and as a result the status and players will attract more polo sponsors, patrons, and fans. Always a good thing!

A PLAYER WITH POLO IN HIS DNA, NACHI HEGUY:

A player for Zedan Polo, Nachi Heguy needs special mention for those who

are not closely involved with polo and its world. Nachi (Ignacio) Heguy has polo in his DNA.

As Jonathan Kandell reported in 1998, Nachi, a one-time 10 handicap lives and breathes polo. Of the Heguy family polo dynasty he reports, "Their great-grandfather, a French-Basque immigrant named Bautista, arrived in Argentina at the turn of the century when land was cheap and bought several thousand acres about 300 miles west of Buenos Aires. The family polo tradition began with the first generation of Argentine-born Heguys. But it was the second generation, the brothers Alberto and Horacio, who reached the pinnacle of international play." In reference to his heritage, Nachi said, "Other destinies were possible, I suppose, but they seemed so much harder than polo." There was a point at which he and his cousins could field a 40 handicap team – what's harder than that?

THE SEMI-FINALS:

Nachi Heguy and Zedan Polo made it to the run-up to the semi-finals which took place away from the host location at a polo resort community, a new and very beautiful venue for Gold Cup matches, Desert Palm.

Unfortunately for the forceful and strategic Abu Dhabi, Lady Luck was not with them. Zedan Polo took the prize with some skilful play by Amr Zedan. As Zedan Polo team's Nachi cantered off the field with his signature smile, I asked "Do you always smile?" Of course, he just smiled and pointed to the heavens. Despite winning five goals to four, it was patron Faris El Yabhouni's Abu Dhabi team that moved forward to the Subsidiary Final against Rashid Al Habtoor's Mahra Polo on the final day of play.

THE KBL DUBAI POLO GOLD CUP FINAL:

The gala final day of the Dubai Gold Cup Polo arrived – the great Habtoor Polo against the skilful Bin Draï. As in past years, the event organisation was impeccable. The VIP area was decked out and marqueeed to give the event's special guests and sponsors an exclusive and serene venue to dine, wine, network and spectate.

And what a match it was! The first chukka of the final started in a measured way at 2-2, but Habtoor Polo pushed forward in the second to take control of the game. In the third, Mohammed Al Habtoor's team played really their best polo and with two new goals increased

the difference to three goals on the scoreboard ending the third 5-2.

You could see Bin Draï beginning to react powerfully at the end of play in the third, and in the fourth Bin Draï followed up with two new goals to even the score at 5-all with a magnificent goal by J.J. Brane with only 30 seconds to go in regulation time.

But it was Guillermo Cuitiño, top scorer of the tournament, who gave, in the last two seconds of extra time, the celebrated victory to Habtoor Polo by 6 goals to 5. The Subsidiary Cup was for Abu Dhabi after beating Mahra Polo 7-5.

A truly superb effort by Habtoor Polo, winning the Dubai Polo Gold Cup for first time after three hearty tries.

BEAT THAT!

Next year's tournament promises to really take it to another level – from 15 goal to a mega-20 goal. As Chairman of the Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series, Mohamed Al Habtoor, states, [The 20 goal handicap will] make it the highest handicap tournament in the Middle East". That will be something to see. And we'll be sure we're there to see it! 🏆



▲ The proud Cup winners - Habtoor Polo

Photos courtesy of Dubai Gold Cup/Gonzalo Etcheverry

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ERIC LAMAZE'S FIRST ROLEX DIARY – PRE-CHIO AACHEN

THIS YEAR'S HIGHLIGHT OVERALL: I'VE HAD A GREAT YEAR AND THE HIGHLIGHT WAS WITHOUT DOUBT AT THE FEI NATIONS CUP™ IN FLORIDA IN FEBRUARY, WHERE I RODE NINE-YEAR-OLD MARE, DERLY CHIN DE MUZE; SHE JUMPED A DOUBLE CLEAR, AND IS DEFINITELY A CANDIDATE FOR THE LONDON OLYMPICS. I WASN'T EXPECTING SUCH A GREAT RESULT SO I'M EXTREMELY FORTUNATE TO HAVE HER AS PART OF THE TORREY PINES STABLES.



A TYPICAL DAY IN THE LIFE OF ERIC LAMAZE:

I typically spend the winter at my home in Wellington, Florida, where we train young horses and riders, before heading back to Antwerp around mid-April where we now have a stable, which holds over forty horses. When I'm in Europe, my daily routine consists of going to the gym in Brussels in the morning, before making my way to the stables where I ride my usual horses. I also train the people that work for me and some of the students, and then I move on to look at some horses in the afternoon.

THE TORREY PINES STABLE:

My training is going well. I have several new horses so a lot of time is dedicated to getting used to them and also showing them at new venues. This year is different to previous years, as I'm left with a lot of horses which lack experience, so I want to get used to them and give them some challenges. I also have to decide which horse to pick for which show, so we're juggling a lot of things that are unknown to us. There are of course a lot of surprises, but most of these are very pleasant! We have fantastic staff who are very confident in what they do; they oversee everything, which makes it much easier for me to concentrate on riding.

PERFORMANCE AT THE ROLEX FEI WORLD CUP™ JUMPING FINAL:

I was very happy with the way the World Cup Final went. I took Coriana van Klapscheut, a horse with very little mileage, who I have only ever ridden at the Rolex IJRC Top 10 Final in Paris; a Grand Prix in Paris; and a Grand Prix in Florida. I mostly use Coriana in speed competitions, but I felt she needed a bigger show before the season started, and the World Cup Final seemed right for her. I didn't expect to win it, but I thought it would do the horse some good later on in the year, and in the end she performed brilliantly.

VERDI AND CHIO AACHEN:

I took my 10-year-old gelding, Verdi, to the five star show in Madrid to compete in the Grand Prix, and I was thrilled with his third place result. I plan on taking him to Spruce Meadows, so we shall see how he gets on and go from there. As far as Aachen is concerned, I am still unsure as to which horse I will be taking, so we will aim to use as much of the deadline as we can before we make that decision!

ORGANISING SUCH A TIGHT SCHEDULE:

I am not very involved with the organisation of my schedule because I have great staff who do it for me. Marie Fraise does all of the coordinating in terms of my agenda and getting the horses from one place to another. I just tell Marie in advance where I'm going and everything is arranged for me –

I'm a very lucky guy!

SUMMER 2012 AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES:

My schedule is basically the same as every year. However, following the CSIO5* Rome I will be taking a week's break to play golf in Wellington (USA). I will then be riding in the summer series at Spruce Meadows, which involves four major competitions, and then Aachen is a possibility. Unfortunately, this year Aachen runs at the same time as the final week of Spruce Meadows, but I am going to try to fit in both somehow. The Grand Prix in Calgary is on Saturday 7 July while the Rolex Grand Prix in Aachen is on Sunday 8 July, so it will depend on the horsepower that I have. We then go to San Patrignano in Italy from 20-22 July, which will most likely be the last show before the Olympics in London. 🏆

Eric Lamaze, Olympic Games gold medal winning show jumper, is a Rolex equestrian sports Testimonee.



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PHASE ONE AT LONDON 2012

By Cymon Taylor, *Italy*



AN EVENT WHICH IS CONSIDERED AS THE PINNACLE OF SPORT AND ONLY COMES AROUND EVERY FOUR YEARS, THE OLYMPICS WILL OPEN IN LONDON SHORTLY. THE EQUESTRIAN ELEMENT OF THE OLYMPICS SPANS FROM JULY 27TH UNTIL AUGUST 9TH AND WILL SEE ALL DISCIPLINES COMPETE IN AND AROUND GREENWICH PARK.

To record the event, 'PHASE ONE' has provided a 645DF camera and accessories. At the beginning of my career it was usual to have a Mamiya RZ 67 as the camera of choice. It was well-balanced equipment and easy to hold, with prism attached, while using Polaroid with the vast gamma of film available, and it was a versatile tool. It was also possible to gain the benefit of the larger format in all editorial, travel and advertising commissions. Shortly after the introduction of digital, many 6 x 7's were rested along with mono rail and large format cameras. We then became dependent on the SLR for better and for worse.

In this unique setting with the assistance of a compact state-of-the-art medium format camera, there will be numerous occasions where the approach to a given discipline will have to be modified to attain the required results; this will have effect on the creative process.

The very nature of being able to visually investigate so much of the daily life, sporting action and all that goes with the organisation of such an event, will allow very varied creative approaches with the range of equipment made available.

So...armed with a great desire to record as much as possible and with a new camera system to explore, I shall adapt experience, setting and opportunity to develop the required creative approach – and you will get to see it in HORSE TIMES OLYMPIC EDITION, fall 40 published at the end of August.

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THE FACTS ABOUT THE EU BAN ON IMPORTATION OF EGYPTIAN HORSES

By Bridget McArdle McKinney

IN JUNE 2010, THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S FOOD AND VETERINARY OFFICE (FVO) UNDERTOOK A SCHEDULED MISSION TO EGYPT TO ASSESS AND EVALUATE THE CONDITIONS, PRACTICES, AND CONTROLS IN PLACE TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE COMPLIANCE WITH EU STANDARDS FOR SAFE LIVE HORSE IMPORTATION. ITS FINAL MISSION REPORT DATED JULY 10, 2010 CONCLUDED THAT THE CONTROLS AND PRACTICES IN EGYPT WERE INSUFFICIENT TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR LIVE HORSE IMPORTATION INTO THE EU. WHAT HAPPENED? WHY IS THIS BAN IN PLACE? WHO NEEDS TO DO WHAT TO CORRECT THE SITUATION? HORSE TIMES PROVIDES THE ANSWERS.



HOW THE FVO WORKS:

The FVO polices compliance with EU animal health and welfare standards. It enforces these standards by allowing or banning importation of animals following audits and inspections of EU member states and non-member trading and treaty countries, according to an annual published inspection schedule.

With respect to Egypt, this FVO compliance and enforcement function is a result of the 2001 Association Agreement between Egypt and the European Union supplemented by the parties' Action Plan of 2007. The published FVO programme for 2010 scheduled an inspection for Egypt as well as China and Jordan for compliance with EU requirements for the importation of live horses. In that year the FVO also inspected 50 other non-member trading or treaty countries for plant and animal health, and, in fact, in 2010 conducted two other scheduled programme inspections in Egypt, one for the plant health of palms and potatoes and the other for pesticide residues.

EU FINDINGS:

The FVO inspection team visited Egypt from 7 to 14 June 2010 and conducted 19 site visits. Its findings and conclusions ([full text link: http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDF.cfm?PDF_ID=8476](http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/act_getPDF.cfm?PDF_ID=8476)) can be summarised as follows:

1. Relevant National Legislation:

Legislation regarding equine infectious diseases has not been updated since 1967, is outdated, and does not include some serious diseases which need to be monitored. There is no requirement in the law for notification of contagious equine diseases and no rules for the collection, storage, trade or use of equine semen. The financial penalties found in the 1966 Agriculture Law for non-compliance have not been changed since then and are wholly inadequate for deterrence.

2. Competent Authority:

The main criticism of the organisation



of the governing authorities was that the civil service vets were free to also act as private vets, thus creating a conflict of interest in respect of certification for purposes of pre-export and export of live horses.

3. Laboratory Services:

There is only one official equine health lab in Egypt, but the lab had

been performing only tests for horse flu, not the other diseases required to be tested for importation, and while the lab had test kits for a range of infectious or contagious diseases those kits were either expired or had been held at inappropriate temperature affecting their reliability. There were no arrangements to certify and use other laboratories.

4. Animal Identification:

Identification of horses is private, voluntary, and unofficial, handled by the internationally-recognised Agricultural Organisation for Horses (EAO) and the Egyptian Equestrian Federation (EEF), even though by law Egypt's General Organisation of Veterinary Services is the official body in charge of identification and registration of horses and has not formally delegated these tasks to those organisations nor does it directly supervise them.

5. Animal Health Controls:

Egypt has no active equine disease surveillance mechanisms in place. There are no animal health procedures or precautions in place in respect of markets or gatherings of horses. There are no provisions for notification of an out-break of equine disease. In the opening meeting, the team was told that there was no West Nile fever in Egypt, but when meeting vets at a university they were told that, indeed, not only was West Nile fever present, it was of a completely different strain from that in neighbouring countries.

6. Import Controls:

The authorities in Egypt performed only ad hoc risk analysis for importation of live animals; specific criteria for entry, including testing for specific diseases of relevance or reports of refusal or acceptance of the animal, were unavailable. There is no standard import certificate and the official vet himself "indicated that due to the lack of clarity in their own animal health requirements they could not control the adequacy of the certificates accompanying the animals." The inspection team reported that they saw import documents for wild zebras from an African country, which cannot be considered free of African horse sickness, but the zebras had not undergone any quarantine or lab testing before entering Egypt.

7. Export to the EU:

According to the report, official export controls appear nearly non-existent. Quoting from the mission report, the concerned Egyptian authority "does not organise, regulate, check, or supervise the certification of



animal health requirements of the country of destination. In practice the mission team was informed that those animal health certificates were issued by non-official veterinarians, working for and on behalf of one of the unofficial self-regulating identification and registration bodies [i.e., EAO and EEF]. Underlying health and identity documentation from these two organisations was missing or inadequate. The mission team noted that the national animal health certificates seen at the airport quarantine department are in an

official pad and that the blank page forms had already been pre-stamped with an official stamp.

8 Control over Vet Medicinal Products: Currently performed unnecessary vaccinations for Venezuelan encephalomyelitis should not be allowed, as the vaccinated animals cannot be differentiated from infected animals.

EU OVERALL CONCLUSIONS:

"The lack of supervision and

documentation of official controls at all levels renders those controls unreliable. Confidence in the health status of equine animals is affected by shortcomings in the management of suspected and confirmed cases of disease in the country. Under current conditions, the certification of equidae does not meet the requirements of their entry to the EU.”

EGYPT’S RESPONSE:

To this report, Egypt officially responded in September and November 2010 (http://ec.europa.eu/food/fyo/ap/ep_eg2010-8427.pdf), and, in summary, replied that draft Ministerial Decisions regarding horse identification, registration and certification, disease notification, horse population, vaccination policy, and official vet certification are to be put before Parliament; the live horse import and export requirements and the administration of the Central Quarantine and Inspection Department will be updated. Vaccination for Venezuelan encephalomyelitides will cease immediately.

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

STAKEHOLDERS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND NEEDS:

Egyptian Parliament

- New legislation conforming to the requirements for live horse exportation to EU as agreed in the 2001 EU – Egypt Association Agreement.

Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture

- Reorganise responsible departments to ensure full and proper documentation of horse health issues, horse importation and exportation.
- Train responsible Ministry personnel to apply standards, prepare proper documentation, undertake appropriate horse testing.
- Establish or refurbish an equine testing laboratory capable of undertaking horse testing.
- Control Health and Pre-Export Certification and Quarantine.
- Adopt and enforce horse disease surveillance and reporting.



Agricultural Organisation for Horses (EAO) & Egyptian Equestrian Federation (EEF)

- Provide horse population and identification information.
- Support the appropriate authorities in drafting required legislation.
- Advise on laboratory testing and standards.
- Seek authorisation to act in particular circumstances as recognised identification and registration authorities.
- Prepare an action plan to support the authorities’ efforts to address the issues raised by the FOV in order to lift the ban.

EGYPTIAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION POSITION:

According to Eng. Hesham Hattab, the President of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation, the EEF has been cooperating with the former Minister of Agriculture Mr. Amin Abaza and former Head of Central Department for Veterinary Quarantine, Dr. Mohamed El Garhi, to put back into working order the problem at hand, which resulted in several meetings leading to the establishment of a monitoring committee. As of January 25, 2011 and after the beginning of the Egyptian revolution, all

governmental and Ministry of Agriculture officials were changed and the committee came to a stop, and matters are still pending.

In view of on-going political situation in Egypt and in order to review the problem, the European Commission’s delegates along with the Ministry of Agriculture audited everything related to the country’s governing Veterinary Authorities and came up with recommendations to solve the problem. The main and sole stakeholder is the Ministry of Agriculture and the Veterinary Authorities. On the other hand, the EEF, as a governing body for equestrian sport, hosted and organised a seminar on June 4 2012 to create more awareness and enhance communication channels. Amongst the speakers were Dr. Yehia Ghazi, the Middle Eastern Representative of the World Organisation for Animal Health, Dr. Yousef Shalaby, current Head of Central Department for Veterinary Quarantine, Dr. Hatem Farag, assistant to the current Minister of Agriculture, and Dr. Sameeh Tarboosh of Jordan University of Science & Technology.

All photos courtesy of European Horse Services (EHS)

ART

SIHAM MOHARRAM



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FOR HORSES & THEIR RIDERS WITH HORSE HEAL™ (PART 1)

By 'Lady' Colleen Heller CHt, LMt, MH

WHEN YOU ARRIVE TO THIS BEAUTIFUL STABLE, YOU WONDER HOW A PLACE LIKE THIS EXISTS NEAR DOWNTOWN CAIRO, EGYPT. IT IS SOMEHOW QUIET AND SOFT IN THE MIDST OF TRAFFIC, HEAVY POLLUTION AND NOISE. ON THIS DAY IN FEBRUARY, THE WEATHER WAS UNUSUALLY WARM, BRIGHT WITH A LIGHT BREEZE. MY THOUGHTS WERE OF THIS PRIOR TO MEETING 'NO LIMITS', THE MARE WHO I WAS ASKED TO USE MY SKILLS ON.



▲ Lady performing Reiki on No Limits

Her owner, Khaled Assem, met me at my Holistic Center, Sinai Energetics in El Maadi, Cairo and, after having his own successful therapy session, suggested I have a look at his horse, which I agreed to do. I was informed No Limits was continually kicking in her box and damaging her legs for quite some time. Working with animals was not new to me. I've worked on camels, horses, goats, dogs, birds and cats prior but working on animals with a goal, such as a show jumping horse, would be a first. My impression of Mr. Assem was that he was unique. Stepping out of the 'boxed' idea of care needed for his horses, by being available to a therapy

he may not exactly understand, but allowing due to his own personal experience. That takes vision, a character trait of Mr. Khaled Assem.

Mr. Assem and his groom met me, my PA who photographed the first meeting and a journalist friend of ours, out by the gates. He brought us to his mare in her box. She was black as night, ornery and snippy! Mr. Assem asked if I wanted to work on her in the box or out. I looked to No Limits, mentally asked her what she wanted, and was clear she wanted out. Mr. Assem and the groom brought her out to the open area where I was instructed on how to deal with her on a lead rope. I

listened but kept my eyes on the mare. She was already communicating her discomfort in movement. I took the lead from the owner who then left me with her. I let her graze a bit. Although she does not know me, I am confident and kind; this she recognised so let me put my hand on her, although a bit tentative at first. After a few moments, she knew I would not hurt her and was curious as to who and what I am. Across the way, all the grooms were watching and waiting for No Limits to rear up, bite or kick. She didn't.

Looking into her eyes, although warned not to, I saw her pain. What this pain was I had yet to uncover. With my 30

plus years of experience in Energetic Medicine, I decided to use a hands-on healing technique combining Reiki with acupressure point release work. The therapy involves tracing the meridian lines of the horse, much like a human, while using simple pressure release techniques utilising acupressure points in specific patterns. Reiki would give the horse rest and relieve stress while working the point pattern. This would release blocks in her energy field, which then translated to the organs and structure. I scanned her with my hands listening to her breathing, body sounds and watching her movements. This is very important to do prior to any hands-on working.

After the open area, we all went to her box with her owner, where the therapy would begin. Mr. Assem said No Limits had two areas of concern. First, obviously the legs from kicking in her box and second in her left glute and stomach. Her legs were swollen and unbalanced. I spent time with each one, gently moving up and down her legs, removing blocks and releasing stress she had created by kicking for so long. While I moved my hands around her body, I noticed her

stomach area was too hot. The mare looked back at me while I let Reiki flow to her under belly. She had a pained expression in her eyes which gave me an emotional response I shall never forget. On further inspection, I decided to question if she had a worm issue. Was she wormed? Although I know nothing of the procedure for worming a horse, this is what came to me. The answer was she was wormed over 9 months prior and soon she would be wormed again according to the groom. She was overdue.

My first session would be completed with No Limits by working on her hind area. When I pointed her hind legs, a shiver appeared under her skin, which I followed with my hand, pointing along the way. She showed me where to go to help her. She was engaged in her healing and showed me trust. I was humbled.

Results: No Limits kicked very little in her box that first night said the groom. Two days later, I returned for her second healing session similar to the first session. After I left her she did not kick in her box at all. No Limits had other issues including

biting. Everyone was afraid of her. Her grooms, rider and horse people who went by her box. Everyone stayed clear of her. By the third visit, after incorporating more movements on the body in rhythmic fashion while talking to No Limits, biting was not a major issue any longer. No Limit's was becoming a calmer and happier horse. The owner, grooms, rider and vet were extremely impressed and happy with her changes. But would they last? The test of time began.

No Limits' old groom thought she may lose her edge without the fire she had, not able to perform due to this new calm, happy, healthier energy she now possessed. I knew differently and the owner agreed. Mr. Assem said, "She has always been anxious but still focused at shows. I think that if she is calmer she will be more calculated. In time, she'll be even better at the shows plus the old groom is happier with the mare now." He was correct; I continued to work with her.

Shortly after these sessions, I heard Farida, a 19 year old, had taken on the mare. I went to watch how No Limits would do with a rider. Farida had been working with her trainer, Mr. Assem, for 5 years. She rode No Limits this evening but was afraid and fearful because this mare was known for being crazy! I remember calling out to Mr. Assem during this training session about the fear I was witnessing in practice. He thought I meant the horse, I said no... 'Give me the rider!' He smiled and asked her later to speak to me.

I did meet the rider at a show at the Ferosia Club. She was very interested in overcoming her fears by any means as nothing had helped her before. From her own past experiences with other horses and No Limits throwing her, she would clench at jumps. I was given the opportunity to work with her by her mother. What we did together will be in the next instalment along with the workings of other horses and their dis-ease. 



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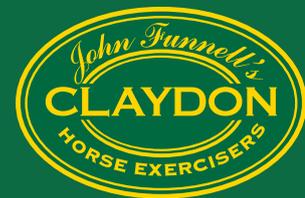


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VETERINARY REGENERATIVE MEDICINE (PART 1)

By Dr. Emir Chaher, Portugal

REGENERATIVE MEDICINE, THE MEDICAL SCIENCE OF REPLACING OR REGENERATING CELLS, TISSUES OR ORGANS TO RESTORE OR ESTABLISH NORMAL FUNCTIONS IN THE BODY, IS A RAPIDLY GROWING FIELD IN EQUINE VETERINARY MEDICINE AND WITH GREAT POTENTIAL. IT REQUIRES A DEEPER INVESTIGATION TO SELECT THE BEST TREATMENTS AND BETTER EVALUATE THEIR RESULTS SINCE NOT ALL PRODUCTS ARE EQUAL AND SOME OF ITS MECHANISMS OF ACTION ARE NOT YET FULLY UNDERSTOOD.

In recent years, equine sports medicine has made very significant advances: diagnostic methods such as digital ultrasound, digital radiography and magnetic resonance imaging and the development of new therapeutic options. The advances in the field of tissue regeneration especially opened a new opportunity for treating problems which in the past were considered the end of a sports career.

To understand this field, it is important to distinguish three concepts:

1. Healing: A natural process in which the body repairs itself.
2. Repair: Re-establishment of health and function after injury or damage.



▲ Figure 1 Obtaining APC (PRP)

3. Regenerate: Replacement of a tissue (or organ) lost or damaged by the formation of new tissue identical to the original.

To avoid misunderstanding, it should be clear that only the regeneration of a tissue restores it to its original structure and function. Repair with scar tissue formation, especially in tendons and cartilages, although providing structural support is always of lower quality and causes lower tissue performance (weakness), which often leads to repeated injury.

Tissues need three components to regenerate properly:

1. A support structure, which provides the matrix on which cells can grow.

2. Growth factors, to provide the necessary stimulus for the cells to grow (Autologous Blood Concentrates).

3. Cells, able to produce a suitable tissue matrix (Cell Products).

AUTOLOGOUS BLOOD CONCENTRATES

Autologous Platelet Concentrate (APC):

The APC commonly known as Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) is an important therapeutic tool to naturally accelerate regeneration of ligaments, tendons and cartilage. Platelets contain more than 20 growth factors and cytokines in their cytoplasmic granules. The most important ones are platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF), transforming

growth factor beta (TGF-), the vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), fibroblast growth factor (FGF) and the insulin-like growth factor (IGF-I and II).

The purpose of the method is to obtain a high concentration of platelets in a small volume of plasma (Figure 1) separated from other cellular components of blood (red and white cells).

There are several commercial systems and kits to produce PRP from peripheral blood of the horse.

In our Equine Clinic (Portugal) we have been using PRP to treat orthopaedic injuries in sport horses for many years and verify the best results with the double tube centrifugation method and ultrasound guided injection directly inside the lesion (Figure 2). It should be performed in a hospital environment and under strict surgical asepsis to prevent contaminations during the preparation.

Although the PRP is not a cell therapy, there is evidence of recruitment of mesenchymal cells (adult stem cells) that migrate to the site of injury due to the chemotactic effect of the growth factors.

Autologous Conditioned Serum (ACS):

ACS, or IRAP as is commonly known, has an analgesic and anti-inflammatory effect, based on the inhibition of interleukin-1, an important inflammatory mediator.

The method is based on the selective increase of interleukin-1 receptor antagonist protein (IRAP) from the patient's own blood.

Producing ACS requires incubation at 37° C for 24 hours of venous blood in the presence of glass beads. Blood leukocytes produce high amounts of anti-inflammatory cytokines that accumulate in the serum.

The IRAP is used primarily for the treatment of osteoarthritis (OA) in horses, but due to its complexity and



▲ *Figure 2 ACP (PRP) ultrasound-guided injection*

elevated cost it is becoming less interesting in light of the growing evidence of the efficacy of PRP in the treatment of equine OA.

Bone Marrow Aspirates:

Bone marrow contains mesenchymal cells, other types of cells and platelets. Concentration of growth factors is similar to that of the PRP. Some veterinarians still use bone marrow obtained by sternal or iliac puncture as direct injection (or after centrifugation) for the treatment of tendon injuries.

But treatment with raw bone marrow should not be confused with stem cell therapy because the concentration of these cells in the bone marrow is extremely low (0.01% to 0.001% of mononuclear cells). It is a very invasive technique without significant comparative advantages and tends to become obsolete.

CELL PRODUCTS Stem Cells:

Stem cells are undifferentiated cells that have the ability to divide or self-renew indefinitely. They can differentiate resulting in various types of cell lines and turn into

mature cells with specialized characteristics and functions, like nerve, heart, skin, blood, bone and cartilage cells.

Mesenchymal Stem Cells (MSC):

MSCs obtained from adult tissues are a population of undifferentiated multipotent cells, capable of differentiating into various tissues of mesodermal origin such as bone, cartilage, ligaments, tendons and muscles. MSCs can be isolated, expanded by replication and induced to differentiate into various cell lines.

Almost all tissues contain MSC including bone marrow, fat tissue or umbilical cord tissue. However, the content of MSCs varies significantly among different tissues.

In Veterinary Medicine, MSCs obtained from the patient's own tissues (bone marrow or fat tissue), are sent to a specialised laboratory (Figure 3) where they are expanded in vitro. Once it reaches the adequate cell number to the extent of the lesion (usually 10-20 million), these are sent to the veterinarian for implantation by ultrasound-guided injection inside the lesion (tendon or ligament) or joint.

In our Equine Clinic we have been using fat tissue derived MSCs (Figure 4) from the horse itself (with or without combination with PRP) to treat tendon and joint diseases in sport horses. These therapies have given us very satisfactory results. Unfortunately, the invasive nature of the cell collection methods and its elevated cost, limit its application to a few high-performance, high-value horses.

After being treated with growth factors (PRP) or MSC implantation, the horses should be subjected to a rigorous rehabilitation program with levels of exercise increasing slowly and progressively.

Clinical recovery of horses treated with regenerative therapies in our clinic depends largely on a thorough case selection, rigorous standardized protocols and close supervision during the execution of the rehabilitation plan, specific to each individual.

In the second part of this article we will present some of our case studies and future prospects of Veterinary Regenerative Medicine. 🏥

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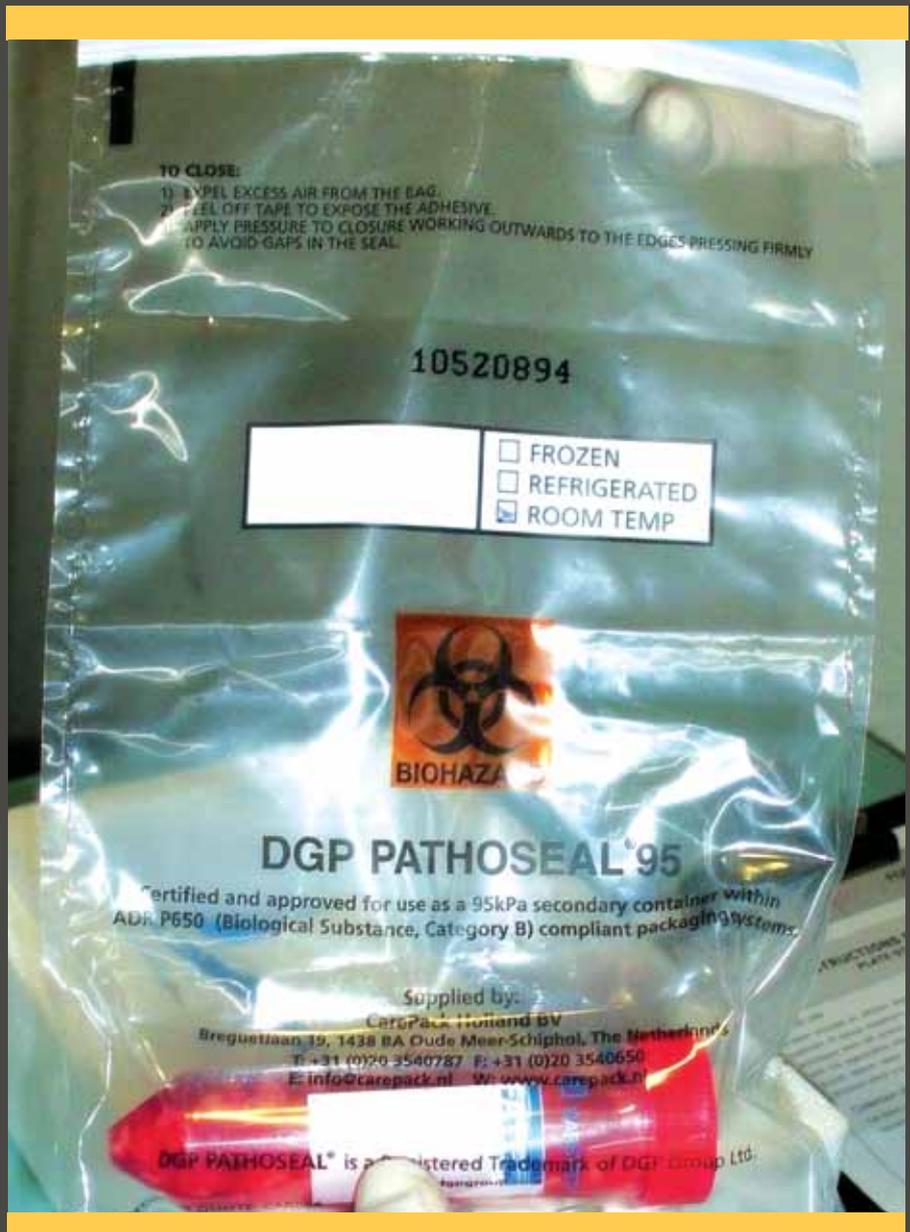
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▲ Figure 3 - Sample ready for shipment

▼ Figure 4 - Fat tissue collection



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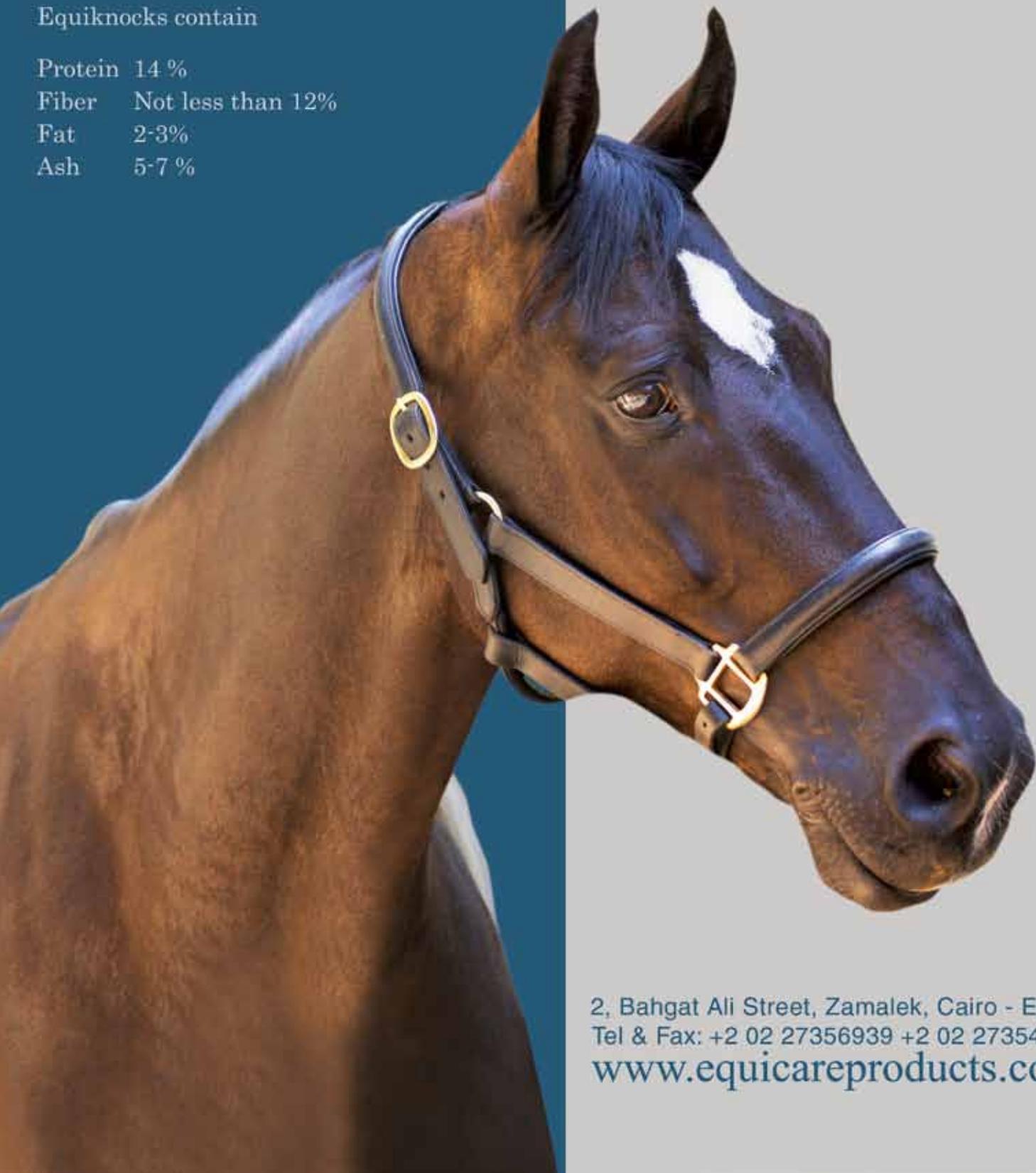
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DRESSAGE FOR JUMPING (PART 9)

By Dr. Mohamed Elsherbini



DURING MY 1983 VISIT TO NEW MARKET, THE ENGLISH TOWN SPECIALISING IN HORSE RACING, I WAS SURPRISED TO SEE RACE HORSES PERFORMING THEIR MORNING FLAT WORK WITH **FLYING CHANGES** BEFORE PRACTICING THEIR DAILY RUN! I ASKED THE RACE HORSE TRAINERS THERE ABOUT TRAINING THOSE HORSES EVEN ON THE FLAT AND TEACHING THE FLYING CHANGES. THE ANSWER FROM ALL TRAINERS WAS THE SAME: CONTROL, OBEDIENCE, SUPPLENESS AND SAVING TIME IN CORNERS! I HAD TO ASK AGAIN, HOW DO FLYING CHANGES SAVE TIME IN CORNERS? AGAIN,

THE ANSWER WAS THE SAME: YOU MAY LOSE SECONDS IN A RACE IF THE HORSE DOESN'T MAKE A FLYING CHANGE IN ONE CORNER; WITHOUT IT HE MIGHT SLOW DOWN A LITTLE OR TURN WIDE FOR RE-BALANCING HIMSELF.

COUNTER CANTER:

This is defined as a cantering with the wrong lead on purpose. For

example, cantering with the left lead on the right hand and vice versa.

The horse should keep his left canter in spite of turning to the right with his body kept flexed to the left against the direction he is going.

The aids for counter canter, if riding a left canter and going to the right are the aids to keep the horse from changing his lead to right canter or disuniting the pace. A strong seat and leg aids to maintain left canter are applied. The rider's weight is more on his right seat bone, his left leg is on the girths maintaining

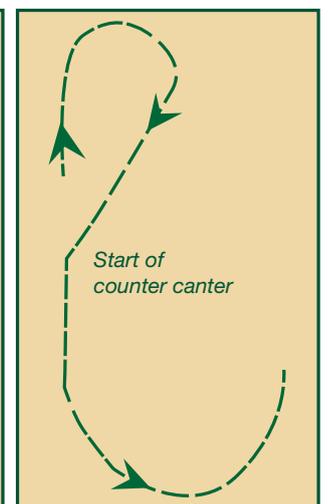
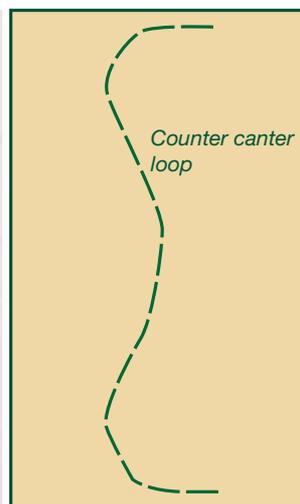


Fig. 1-A

Fig. 1-B

Fig. 2 Flying Change from easier to more difficult positions

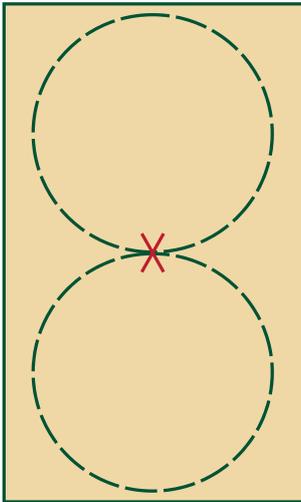


Fig. 2 A

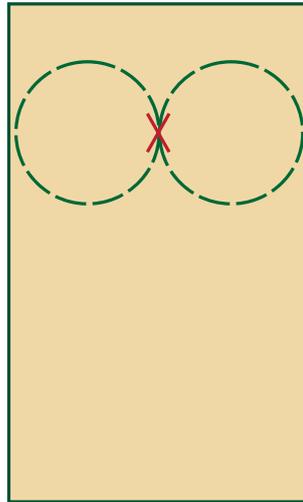


Fig. 2 B

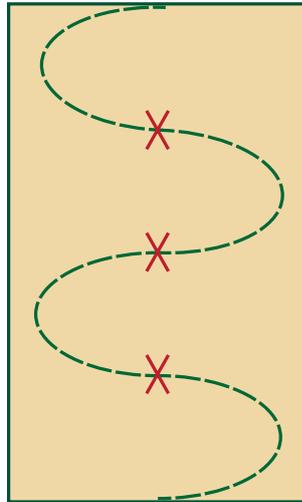


Fig. 2 C

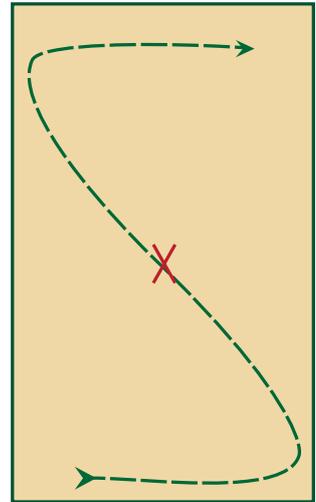


Fig. 2 D

impulsion, and the right leg is more behind the girths than usual to keep the flexion. The inside rein should be stronger than the outside one which guides the horse when turning.

The counter canter should be trained in an easy way first (Fig. 1–A), then in a more difficult way (Fig. 1–B). It is a great **suppling** exercise for the horse. It will also teach him obedience, balance, and straightness. A rider who is trained with his horse to perform a well balanced counter canter should not panic when cutting a corner during a course in counter canter as they will jump the next fence correctly. On the other side if the horse is not trained to do a counter canter (or a flying change), he may turn disunited which is a problem when facing big fences. Counter canter is a very good preparation for flying change.

FLYING CHANGE:

It is the change from one canter lead to the other while maintaining canter stride. It is a **natural movement** that horses do when they are free in nature to rebalance themselves in turns.

The aid for flying change is the same as for a strike off to **canter from trot**.

Before teaching the horse flying change, he must be able to achieve some collection in canter and be happy in counter canter.

As a preparation for the flying change, a rider should practice with his horse the **simple change** of the leg in canter with only one or two walking strides in between them.

The correct moment of flying change aids is when the **leading foreleg touches the ground**, as the next phase is the moment of **suspension** when all legs are free of the ground.

Start always in an easy position of the arena (Fig. 2 A, B, C, D).

For example, when the rider needs to make a flying change from left to right canter, the horse should be prepared with half-halts when his near forefoot touches the ground. The rider, simultaneously, should change his leg position and weight distribution and apply aids for **right canter**. The rider should keep his weight above the horse's near hind leg and apply increased pressure with the left leg slightly further behind the girths with strong pressure from the right leg on the girths.

It is essential to keep the horse **straight** from head to tail, maintaining collection, impulsion, balance, rhythm and be light on the bit.

A usual mistake is the **rider bending** his upper body forward looking down to the off foreleg putting more weight on it. Another common mistake is to execute flying changes too often at the same point of school so that the horse will anticipate it rather than respond to the aids.

It is very important that a show jumper can make a fluent and quick flying change to alter his direction in a course and especially in a jump-off saving valuable seconds.

I always believe that **riders win competitions in between jumps and not over them**. If I continue writing about flat work for jumping, I think I will never stop, but in my opinion what I have written in the last few issues about **dressage for jumping** is quite enough even for an international show jumper. 🐾

Now it is time to move to poles, grids, and introduction to jumping in the next issues of HORSE TIMES.

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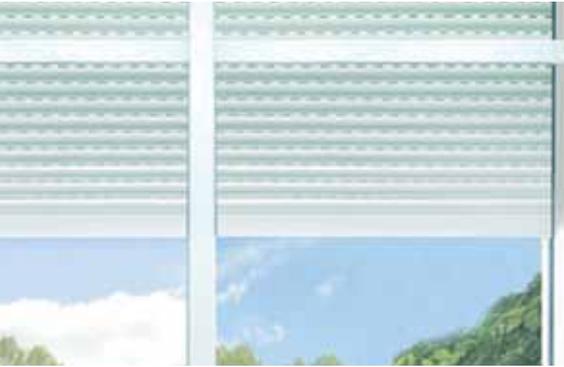
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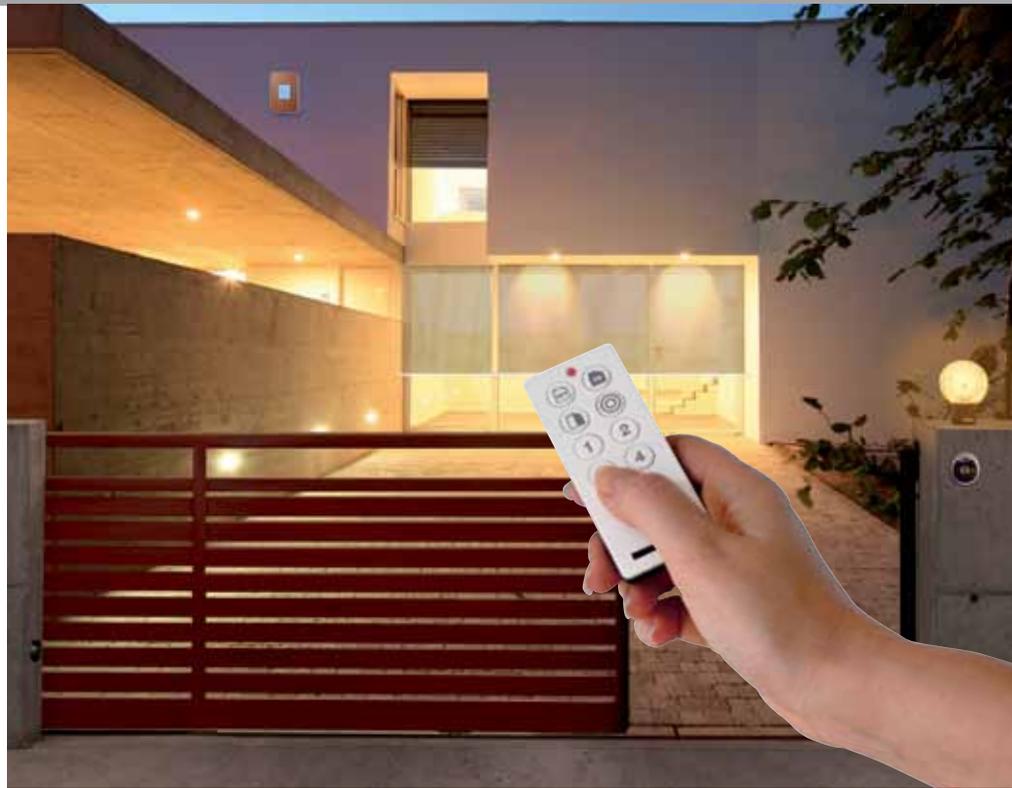
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THE MIDDLE EAST'S LEADING EQUESTRIAN EXHIBITION SECURED SUCCESSFUL TRADING PLATFORM

The eighth edition of the Dubai International Horse Fair (DIHF), the Middle East's leading equine exhibition, closed with reports of successful business and potential partnerships for many of the 200 plus exhibitors that participated from 35 countries. The event, which ran from 15 – 17 March, 2012 at the Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre (DICEC), was a showcase for the latest equipment, products and services to the Middle East's booming equine industry.

Abdulla Qassem, Board Member - Higher Organising Committee of Dubai International Horse Fair and Dubai International Arabian Horse Championship, said: "Exhibitors at Dubai International Horse Fair crossed the finish line with great success for everyone. The regional equine industry is well developed and will continue to offer excellent opportunities for international companies wishing to expand their markets. We are delighted that the show delivered tangible benefits for all and we are looking forward to a greater event next year."

With companies from all around the world making their debut at this year's three-day show, such as Bockmann

Fahrzeugwerke GmbH, Duralock Performance Fencing, Medical Plus Middle East FZE, Mohammad Refaat, Nasser Bin Ibrahim Al-Dibeahy, Trailrider Saddles and many more, the show includes the latest developments in equestrian equipment, products and services, complementary and alternative therapies for horses, live equestrian demonstrations and riding classes.

The US\$ 4 million Dubai International Arabian Horse Championships, which was held alongside DIHF, again attracted large crowds, with its excellent showcasing of the beauty, agility and heritage of purebred Arabian horses.

"The participation of Shadwell and Shadwell Farm is very important as we always receive great interest and inquiries during this year's DIHF from relevant exhibiting companies as well as visitors about specific stallions or mares," said Masoud Mohammed Saleh of Shadwell.

"The attendance was overwhelming by all means this year. It was the most crowded Horse Fair ever" said Khaled Ghanem Al Omairi, General Manager, Ajman Stud. "The visitors showed real interest in us and we have received many inquiries through telephone and email. There has been a lot of business during this year's DIHF".

"This year's DIHF proved to be very lucrative for us as we were able to

sell four paintings with prices ranging between AED 35,000 and 150,000 and I have further discussions with potential clients to sell six more," said Mohammed Refaat, Artist and Interior Designer, who participated in the DIHF for the first time. "The success we achieved has surpassed our expectations and the yield was wonderful. We were visited by a number of artists who were impressed with our offerings. This great accomplishment will drive us to come back to the event."

"Our honour was crowned by a visit of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who stopped by and viewed the paintings. I really appreciate His Highness' great passion for true art," he added.

Another artist, the British Charlotte Bowskill, who has a shop to sell paintings inspired by the delightful equestrian world, showcased a group of paintings for distinguished European artists. "I am very happy with my participation in DIHF that allowed me to meet with many new clients," said Bowskill. "I have signed a new contract during the show to deliver a number of specially crafted paintings to a VIP in Saudi Arabia." Bowskill, who's new to the show, sold five paintings over the three-day exhibition with prices ranging between AED 8,000 and 25,000. "I look forward to my next participation in the Horse Fair. I'm a big fan of Dubai and this event makes me very connected to this beautiful city and the lovely world of Arabian horses." 



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