



THE LEADING EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SALON DU CHEVAL D'EL JADIIDA

THE HORSE, ARTS AND CRAFTS

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VIEW POINT FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Readers,

I would like to start by wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your beloved families.

The development of the equestrian sport is intensifying worldwide and particularly in the Middle East, where the rate of progress is remarkable. HT had the chance and privilege to cover the Salon du Cheval d'El Jadida 2015 for the 6th time consecutively where, once again, we witnessed the amazing growth and improvement of the organisational skills, details and technical logistics. Equally along the same lines is the 2015 Algerian Tour, with special thanks to the President of the Algerian Federation M'hamed

Metidji and Mrs. Fahima Sebianne, president of the ground jury, for their extreme dedication and hopeful vision.

In this issue, we present for your consideration an expert legal analysis of the issues related to the Global Champions Tour versus the FEI in a struggle for control of the sport. And all way from Spain, we bring you highlights of the Belgian team at the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™.

With more focus on technical training, we bring you Emad Zaghloul's dressage article on impulsion and the importance of such principle in all equestrian disciplines. Moving on to showjumping, our regular feature Training Tips offers insights into the relation between the execution of the perfect jump and the inner horseman.

As for our national equestrian heritage, we celebrate Rabab International Championship S-Show presenting one of the oldest and most renowned studs. And in our continuous and dedicated effort to share the growth of

our equestrian sport, we were proud to co-sponsor and cover the "SOFITEL Cairo El Gezira Hotel Horse Show" held at the Ferosia Club and to give you a look at the opening of Pegasus Equestrian Centre in Dreamland, a significant and impressive addition to the nation's riding facilities.

We would like to share with you as well special interviews with Egyptian horse riders: Amina Ammar, the leading lady riding at top levels and Mr. Ahmed Talaat, the leading figure in course designing representing Egypt internationally.

To better complement our storytelling, we introduce you to the photographers behind the special shots who have been documenting equestrian moments: Philippe Lemire, Driss Benmalek and Fouad El Sherbini.

Read and Enjoy,

Sincerely,

Khaled Assem

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Headline Printing & Design

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HORSE TIMES is a quarterly magazine founded in 1997 by Khaled Assem. HORSE TIMES is a pioneer in its field; it is issued for riders, breeders and horse lovers, nationally and internationally. The views expressed by contributors are their own and not necessarily those of the editors. Issues are complimentary and not for sale by any means. Please notify us if change of address occurs. All rights reserved to HORSE TIMES: reproduction is prohibited without the permission of the Chairman Khaled Assem

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SALON DU CHEVAL D'EL JADIDA

THE HORSE, ARTS AND CRAFTS

By Khaled Assem

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THE EQUESTRIAN INDUSTRY, WITH ITS VARIOUS DISCIPLINES, REPRESENTS A DYNAMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HORSES AND HUMANS IN DIFFERENT SOCIAL FRAMES. FOR EIGHT YEARS, SALON DU CHEVAL D'EL JADIDA HAS BEEN THE SOUL OF THE HORSE INDUSTRY IN MOROCCO. LEAPING FROM ONE LEVEL OF SUCCESS TO ANOTHER, THE SALON HAS BEEN CREATING UNPRECEDENTED RECOGNITION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INDUSTRY. YEAR AFTER YEAR, IT HAS ENGRAVED A DEEP AND ENDURING INFLUENCE ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, TOURISTIC, SPORTING AND RECREATIONAL LEVELS OF OUR SPORT.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL FEDERATION FOR EQUESTRIAN SPORT (FRMSE) PRINCE MOULAY ABDELLAH ALAOUI:

Held under the High Patronage of HM King Mohammed VI, Le Salon du Cheval d'El Jadida contributes every year, since its inception in 2008, to the development of the equine industry in the Kingdom.

Within a few editions, this event has become an essential meeting place for professionals. Several horse-related activities are organised within the framework of national and international competitions and exhibitions of a high level.

The entertainment program remains in a main feature of this professional fair which solidly combines leisure, cultural, artistic, sporting and recreational equestrian activities.

The importance and diversity of horse-related professions and their positive impact on the economic sector have motivated the choice of the theme of the 8th edition "The Horse: Arts and Crafts". It reflects the desire to provide a discussion platform and exchange for professionals in the industry.

Le Salon du Cheval d'El Jadida and the horse industry in Morocco cannot develop properly unless the fair gains international recognition. That's why Le Salon du Cheval has made international cooperation a main focus of development. Thus, this year's guest of honour is Portugal. The participation of this country in Le Salon du Cheval d'El Jadida is an opportunity to consolidate cooperation ties between the two countries in the horse industry and offers Portugal the opportunity to highlight its equestrian tradition in Morocco. Morocco will get the opportunity to discover the rich and diverse Portuguese equestrian history as well. This partnership might consolidate the exchange of expertise and promote the horse field as well as reinforce the development of equestrian patrimony in these two countries that have an age-old equestrian tradition.

A WORD FROM DR. EI-HABIB MARZAK, THE COMMISSIONER OF SALON DU CHEVAL D'EL JADIDA:

The Horse Fair continues to forge ahead by relying, as usual, on the national and international competitions, the high level championships and contests as well as on the outstanding riders and participants. The purpose is to make this event a springboard for a better reorganisation of this sector, and to serve as a meeting platform for expertise exchange aiming to promote the horse industry that the organisers intend to reinforce over the coming editions.

The 8th edition shed the light on the Moroccan equestrian patrimony that says a lot about the place and culture of the horse in Morocco. From this perspective, the programme comprises many cultural and scientific conferences that reflect the interest of the institutional officials and the operators to promote the crafts related to the horse.

This edition will grant a new lease to this event that gained its reputation thanks to activities which might push the programmes of breeders and their awareness of the latest horse breeding techniques.



Ms. Mouna Mohattane, the Communication Manager of Salon Du Cheval



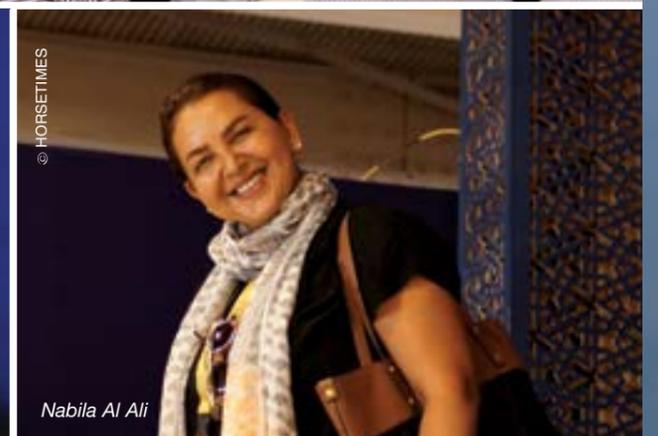
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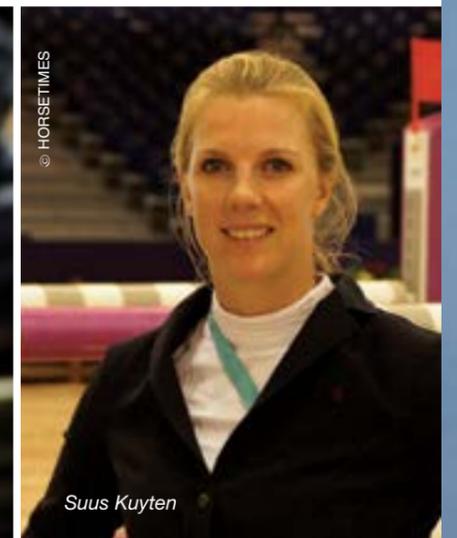
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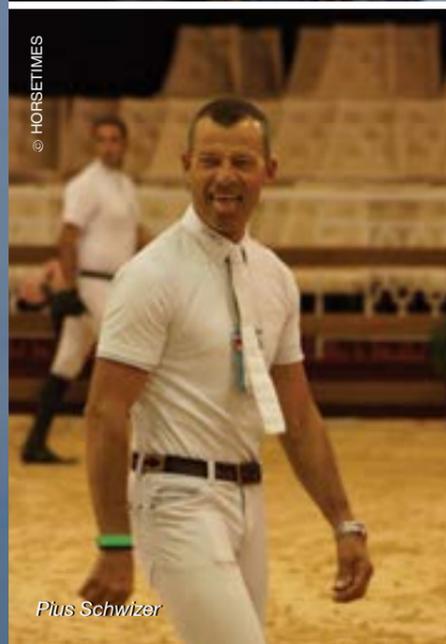
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Mr. Badre Fakir



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Julien Gonin



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António Matos Almeida

HORSE ECONOMY IN MOROCCO

The promotion of employment in the horse industry plays a significant socio-economic role that leads to the sustainable development of the rural sector and boosts the activity in the rural regions. Therefore, promoting jobs in this field through training and supervision plays an important role in the success of the strategy of developing the equine sector, which contributes to the strengthening of the horse's role in the national economy.

INTRODUCING THE CONCEPTS OF HORSEMANSHIP TO THE CHILDREN OF MOROCCO

In an amazing attempt to plant the values of Horsemanship within the youth and to educate them further about the importance of bravery, chivalry, patience, respect, and foremost, being compassionate. The Salon du Cheval invites every year around 20,000 school children free of charge to demonstrate the above values and engrave them in the minds and hearts of the coming generation.

SHOW JUMPING

This was the third leg of the Moroccan Royal Tour. More than 20 nations, represented by prestigious horse-riders, including Olympic Games medallist's, World Equestrian Games participants and the various continental champions, as well as a host of world stars of jumping.

CSI 3*W

Total number of athletes: 60

Number of home athletes: 15

Number of foreign athletes: 45

Number of horses per athlete: 3

CSI 1*

Total number of athletes: 60

Number of home athletes: 40

Number of foreign athletes: 20

Number of horses per athlete: 2

EVENT CATEGORY: CSI3*W PRIZE MONEY: 177, 000 €

EVENT CATEGORY: CSI1* PRIZE MONEY: 18, 000 €

TOTAL PRIZE MONEY: 195, 000 €

CSI3*W GRAND PRIX DE SA MAJESTE LE ROI MOHAMMED VI Prize money: 61, 500€

The results of the Grand Prix:

1st place: António Matos Almeida (POR) & NIKEL DE PRESLE

2nd Place: Nadja Peter Steiner (SUI) & CAPUERA II

3rd Place: Ramzy Hamad Al Duhami (KSA) & Al Capone

4th Place: Fabienne Daigneux-Lange (BEL) & VENUE D'FEES DES HAZALLES

5th Place: Abdelkebir Ouaddar (MAR) & QUICKLY DE KREISKER

For full results: www.mrt.ma/en/6th-edition-2015/eljadida.php#

ARABIAN HORSES

This industry has been growing as it needs years of experience and trials. Dr. Machmoum, an authority in the field has expressed that for this industry to flourish further, the infrastructure has to develop. This lies in training more judges, training more veterinary support, creating an open forum where breeders could discuss their difficulties and their strengths. Those guidelines presented and incorporated within the vision of The Salon du Cheval d'El Jadida. Through such strategies one can positively measure the rate of progress.

For full results check www.salonducheval.ma/details8/competition-championship-results

TBOURIDA AS A CULTURE

As part of the national cultural identity and constituting a strong expression of collective joy, Tbourida is a very popular sport to celebrate national and religious holidays. At the Salon du Cheval, each region, through its Sorba Tbourida composed of 15 riders on beautiful Arab-barbs richly caparisoned, displays its skills inherited from generation to generation. The colourful spectacle of Tbourida is a contest of speed, endurance, grace, discipline and manoeuvrability for Morocco's horsemen and horses.

The word Tbourida is an Arabic term that means ostentation. It derives from the word Baroud, which means the gun powder traditionally put in old muzzle-loading long rifles called Jezzails. It is an event demanding both perfection and cohesion. It is a traditional art, where horse riders charge simultaneously and fire their Jezzails towards the sky at the end of the charge. Bardiya means riders in Arabic dialect and is a word derived from Tbourida, now considered to be a noble art within Moroccan cultural heritage.

This popular art dates back to the fifteenth century and refers to the heroism of the horse riders and warriors, whose praises are sung and glorified by the Baroud with the Jezzail. "Tbourida was used in the Harkates, which means the attack of a tribe by another" said Dr. Zouzi, president of the association of popular art and social affairs in Skhour Rhamna. During those battles, the horse riders of each tribe had to defend the pride of their tribe against their opponents. To own a horse and to be a Bardi, horse rider at the Tbourida, is a huge honour for the tribe, and each tribe has its own way of demonstrating its pride. This used to be an art reserved for nobles and the wealthier members of the tribe. Nowadays, however, anyone can purchase a horse and join a Tbourida team. "It is an ancestral art that is transmitted from father to son and it is easier to become a Bardi if your relatives and ancestors were Bardi", said Dr. Zouzi.

The Tbourida today follows specific rules in direct affiliation with its roots. In a bordered field about 200 meters long, teams of three to 20 riders perform for the pleasure of their guests. Spaced around the ground, magnificent tents welcome the contestants and their guests during the days of each festival.

For full results: www.salonducheval.ma/details8/competition-championship-results

EQUINE PHOTOGRAPHY AND YOUTH ART CONTEST

The Union of Arab Photographers organised a competition in photography devoted to the Arab horse and open to all Arab photographers. Five finalists were selected and received awards during the show.

Art has no age! Salon du Cheval also organised a competition in painting and drawing for children from Rabat, Casablanca, Safi and El Jadida.



Mr. Mohamed Oussidhoum & Mrs. Yvonne Lavagne D'Ortigue



© Driss Benmalek



© Driss Benmalek



© Driss Benmalek



NATIONAL STUD OF EL JADIDA

On the 8th sitting of Salon du Cheval d'El Jadida, SOREC presented its latest creation to the press: the National Stud of El Jadida completely rebuilt and now operational after two years of work. The Royal Society is working daily to promote the breeding of different breeds of Moroccan horses. The stud farm is believed to be a facility that is going to make immense changes in the practice of riding.

This stud farm offers modern and efficient facilities for the best techniques of reproduction and care of the horse and accommodation of mares. The National Stud has top-class facilities dedicated to natural mating and artificial insemination.

The establishment of El Jadida has 72 stallions. "It also offers the equestrian club benefits", said Mohammed Oussidhoum, director of the National Stud of El Jadida.

The stud was created on an area of 5 hectares. Its aim is to broaden skills related to the sector. Practical training is also provided for the benefit of employees of the Royal Society for the Horse Encouragement (SOREC), as well as farmers and people working in farms with the aim of improving the technique of livestock and quality of the horses and to produce the best horses for the best uses whether for the Tbourida, equestrian sports, or sale.

It should be mentioned that the stud of El Jadida had preserved its purely military role until 1946, when it came under the civilian authority of the Ministry in charge of agriculture. It is specialised in the production of race horses and Tbourida.

EQUESTRIAN NIGHTS

The 8th edition of the Salon held once again a lot of magic and emotion. For the main equestrian show, the horse show brought together national and international talented artists, directed by Maurice and Fabien Galle.

-Lorenzo (France): An international artist who has performed in more than 28 countries. Why is he called the "Flying Horseman", "Horse Enchanter" or "Flying French Man"? He performs with his 12 Camargue horses in a perfect harmony and complicity. It is a very emotional show.

-Club Escola Menorquina (Spain): Menorca is one of the Balearic Islands where the horse is an important component in the socio-cultural life. Accompanied with their Menorcan horses, riders perform equestrian and dressage, extraordinary shows.

-Traditional Hungarian show (Hungary): The troupe presented performances of the Hungarian equestrian tradition, showing the dressage techniques of Hungarian race horses, harnessed in old fashion style by farmers. They showed us the Hungarian art of the High School of Dressage, as practiced before by Hungarian soldiers.

-The Republican National Guard (Portugal): Presented a carousel, High School shows, the Charanga of Lisbon.

-FAR /DGSN / SOREC / Marrakech Art School: FAR, DGSN, SOREC and the Marrakech Art School presented an original and captivating performance of their cavalry.

-KHALID EL KHOUMSI Moroccan reining artist. 🇲🇦

Driss Benmalek

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER FOR SALON DU CHEVAL D'EL JADIDA, TBOURIDA



In its diversity of subjects, techniques and styles, photography is considered by many as one of the fine arts. This art is beautiful when heart, eye and hand work together. Whether as a professional or an amateur, the photographer tells a story by this act of "drawing with light". Many talented photographers all over the world use their technical skills to capture the natural postures and poses of horses to create images which leave their mark on the mind and heart.

Driss Benmalek's international travels led to his fascination with the presentation of the Arab horse. His main objective is to show the real face of the Moroccan breeders and breeds. The Moroccan Royal Association of the Pure Arabian Horse Breeders chose him to be an official photographer because of his knowledge, international experience and superior photography skills and HT is proud to present his elegant and skillful work to you. 



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ARABIAN BEAUTY ON MOROCCAN LANDS

A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE !

By Yvonne LAVAGNE

DURING SALON DU CHEVAL D'EL JADIDA, A RIDDEN CLASS FOR ARABIAN HORSES WAS ORGANISED FOR THE FIRST TIME.

It was a real pleasure for me to be invited by Dr. Mohamed Machmoum to come and judge this new competition in Morocco. For this hard work, I was accompanied by Dr. Mohamed Oussidhoum.

Several years ago, the ridden class began in Great Britain, especially for Arabian horses. Now, it is organised in several countries all over the world. It is not a competition of dressage; as judges, we want to see the horses bringing in hand with a light contact, driving action of hind legs in smooth obedience and calmness.

The demonstration has three phases: First, the horses walk all together under the judge's orders, at the principal paces: walk, trot and canter with cadence. The judges can ask to extend trot, or canter, to stop or to rein back. Then, they ask to change hand and the same work is judged on the other hand.

Then, each horse has two minutes to make their individual presentation with the same figures: the three paces, in the order they wish. They can also make some circles or some volts, stop and rein back correctly.

We want to see calm, quiet and well-mannered horses with obedience and lightness. The horses must seem easy to ride under classical equitation.

Finally, the rider leaves the saddle to present the horse in three ways: still, walking and trotting.

As a judge, we have to assign four marks: the main mark is for performance which equals 60 points, then a mark for the type which is worth 15 points, another 15 points for conformation, and at the end the presentation of horse and rider weighs 10 points.

We never know who will win the competition: for example, an excellent performance by a horse with no type, or a wrong conformation, can finish behind another horse that made an average performance, but has a wonderful type and a serious conformation. And the opposite can also be seen.

At El Jadida competition, the judging was very difficult leaving a thin line between several competitors. The horses were extremely well in hand, made a perfect presentation and the riders' level was very high and so pleasant to see!

It has been a wonderful experience to judge this first ridden class in Morocco. Now, I am sure it was the beginning of a new chapter with the Arabian Sport Horse. Let us wait with pleasure for the second competition of this new sort of performance test for our dear Arabian horses. 🐾



AN EXCEPTIONAL YEAR

HOME OF THE 2015 ALGERIAN TOUR

By Engy Adham

© Saleh Mustapha



ALGERIAN TOUR 2015 IS ORGANISED BY HARAS HOCINE EL-MANSOUR EQUESTRIAN CENTRE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ALGERIAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION (AEF) UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF MR. M'HAMED ZOUBIR METIDJI. THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS AND THE WALI OF MOSTAGANEM M. HOCINE MANSOUR METIDJI SUPPORT THE TOUR IN ITS THIRD RUNNING, WHICH WAS HELD OVER TWO SUCCESSIVE WEEKENDS: FROM 29 OCTOBER TO 31 OCTOBER 2015 AND 4 NOVEMBER TO 6 NOVEMBER 2015. IT HOSTED 150 HORSEMEN AND HORSEWOMEN FROM COUNTRIES ALL AROUND THE WORLD: ALGERIA, GERMANY, SAUDI ARABIA, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, SPAIN, FRANCE, ITALY, LIBYA, PALESTINE AND TUNISIA.

One last surprise from the year 2015!

Here is a clue.

A beautiful mare

Full of poetry covered with silk

A strong stallion

Awaiting his release

Both are ready

For show-jumping

And a ride to sunset

In a beautiful land on the Mediterranean shores

Have you guessed it yet?

Mostaganem- Home of the 2015 Algerian Tour Jumping International

2015 – A perfect year where riders put their hearts into competitions; they strived for excellence and carved their way breaking world records to sculpt a new victory in the history of the equestrian sport.

Before leaving, the year 2015 had one last challenge.

On the coast of the Mediterranean, the city of Mostaganem was swathed in a cold morning breeze and soft rays of sunshine. Step by step, every street introduces a new part of the city and each alley tells a story. Following its paths, Mostaganem led us to the heart and soul of the city: Haras Hocine El Mansour Equestrian Centre housing the 2015 Algerian Tour.

Background

"On behalf of the Algerian Equestrian Federation (AEF), members of the Federal Bureau and on my own behalf, I express our warmest thanks." These were the opening words of The President of The Algerian Equestrian Federation (AEF) M'hamed Zoubir Metidji.

An international friendship competition was the first international experience organized in 2013, followed by a CSI 1* in 2014. These two competitions gathered a large number of riders coming from many nations and were very successful. But "this year is exceptional," says Metidji "an exceptional year for Algeria organizing a CSI 2* and CSI 3*" - the latter being a World Cup qualifier.

"I am proud and happy to supervise such events, which undoubtedly allow riders from different nations to excel in a healthy competition and share their experiences with fair play and in strict compliance with the rules issued by the International Equestrian Federation," says Metidji.

In celebration of the development of the equestrian activity and fostering a culture of sporting excellence, the Algerian Minister for Youth and Sport, his Excellency ElHadi Ould Ali, attended the 2015 Algerian Tour. Metidji accompanied him in the remarkably well-equipped spaces of Haras Hocine El Mansour Equestrian Centre.

The Minister of Agriculture Rural Development and Fisheries and local authorities of the Wilaya of Mostaganem headed by the Wali of Mostaganem were also a vital support in the preparations for this competition.

Join the Action

One hundred and fifty horsemen and women attended the 2015 Algerian Tour. Three days of excitement, intense competitions and almost non-ending thrills from the best riders from all around the world.



The President of the Algerian Equestrian Federation (AEF) Mr. M'hamed Zoubir Metidji and Abdullah AlSharbatly, Grand Prix Winner

The President of the Algerian Equestrian Federation (AEF) Mr. M'hamed Zoubir Metidji and Fahima Sebiane FEI International Show Jumping Judge

For three consecutive days, every morning riders, judges, sponsors, breeders, family members and horse lovers gather in the arena getting ready for a marvelous show.

For the first time in Algeria, the Algerian Tour adopted a CSI 2* and a CSI 3* World Cup qualifier. Metidji says, "The objective of the Algerian Tour is firstly to allow Algerian riders to reach top levels and prepare for the next international deadlines including the Mediterranean Games in 2021 in Oran/Algeria, and also to discover the equestrian world in Algeria."

As for Algerian riders, this competition is a great opportunity for them to compete against international riders; an opportunity that prepares and qualifies them for World Cup championships. Algerian rider Anis Smati is based in France and joined the Algerian Tour for the first time. Smati told Horse Times, "I am really glad to be here for the Algerian Tour; this is the third year they have organised this show, but this is my first time it is very exciting to be part of such competition."

One by one, each rider performed at his/her best jumping over 1.30 meter fences. A spectacular event marked by international and national efforts

to produce the best show. We were all watching the competitions very closely with special anticipation being paid to the big event ... Yes, the Grand Prix, but first, I will take you to the warm-up arena moments before the Grand Prix.

The feeling in the warm-up arena: Horses were strong, agile with enough space on their back to carry a human, as they have done for centuries. Impatiently waiting their turn to prove their efficiency, speed, strength and ability to communicate with their riders. As for riders, you can imagine! Tense, excited, focused and anxious to experience the moment and capture victory. Both riders and horses were ready for a run against the clock.

The Grand Prix

During the Algerian Tour 2015 Abdullah Al-Sharbatly with Talan won the CSI 3*W Grand Prix in Mostaganem. The Saudi Arabian Olympic silver medallist held with a double clear and came in the second round with 62.31 seconds at the finish.

Al-Sharbatly was pleased with his victory. "There are a lot of good riders here. This has been a great experience and a tough competition. Talan is a great

horse and I am really happy with his performance," Al-Sharbatly told Horse Times.

Second place went to the French Dorothee Amar. She stayed with the fourteen-year-old Nemo De Belou clear in the second round, but in 63.54 seconds. Four faults for Rowan Willis with Blue Movie put them in third place. As for Philippe Putallaz from Switzerland, he ended with Quessant De Perhet in fourth place. Last but not least, Faye Schoch, who collected thirteen penalty points with the Ravisante De Pleville ranking fifth place.

Meet the Jury

I have to introduce the superb jury. This show wouldn't have been the same without them. It included Fahima Sebiane assisted by Djamel Hamadoune Kerdjadi Youcef, Alya Mencheri Youcef Mehiri, Moroccan Badr Fakir and French Jean-Philippe Ohye.

Yes, it is 2016, but..

Reminiscing on 2015 memories; a spectacular event and strong competitions brought people from all around the world. It is time to leave you with final words of Metidji.

"The AEF intends to make the Algerian Tour an annual event that will, for the next editions, and if the infrastructure-related conditions permit, include a stage in other cities of the country, including the capital, Algiers."

Results:

- 1) Saudi Arabia - Abdullah AlSharbatly with Talan
- 2) France - Dorothee Amar with Nemo De Belou
- 3) Australia - Rowan Willis with Blue Movie
- 4) Switzerland - Philippe Putallaz with Ouessant De Perhet
- 5) Switzerland - Faye Schoch with Ravisante De Pleville

For full results, kindly check Horse Times website.

All photos by Hamada Hamdy





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The horse day after day

BELGIUM TAKES THE FURUSIYYA 2015
TITLE IN GRIPPING FINALE

MEET THE CHAMPIONS

By Louise Parkes

THE BELGIUM TEAM CLINCHED THE FURUSIYYA FEI NATIONS CUP™
JUMPING 2015 TITLE IN THE FINEST OF STYLE WITH A FANTASTIC
PERFORMANCE IN THE FINAL ROUND AT REAL CLUB DE POLO IN
BARCELONA (ESP).

© Dirk Caremans



Rolf-Göran Bengtsson (SWE)

They threw down the gauntlet when topping Thursday's opener in which they pinned Germany and Sweden into joint-second place. But it was the British who emerged to fill runner-up spot this evening, pinning the rampant Dutch back to third when the clock decided the final placings. USA, Ireland and Germany were next in line, also separated only by time when they also finished on an equal scoreline, while Sweden lined up seventh ahead of Switzerland in eighth.

The city of Barcelona certainly welcomed the world with open arms once again before tonight's competition began FEI President Ingmar de Vos, made a special presentation to Mr. Carles Villarubi Vice-President of FC Barcelona who provided access to the world-famous Camp Nou stadium for a special photo-shoot ahead of the Final.

Tonight's competition more than lived up to expectations, with fortunes fluctuating wildly and the result once again decided by the very last rider into the arena. The crowd was spell-bound with spectacular jumping from many of the world's greatest athletes and horses, but the Belgians were the shiniest stars of all, with Judy-Ann Melchior and Gregory Wathelet producing two of just six clear rounds on the night to clinch it.

ALWAYS LOOKED COMPETITIVE

The winners always looked competitive when Olivier Philippaerts' opening four-fault effort with H&M Armstrong van de Kapel was followed by a fabulous clear from Melchior and As Cold as Ice Z. There's nothing extravagant about the 13-year-old mare's jumping style, but she is honest as the day is long and always gives her rider everything she's got. Melchior's emotion when the pair crossed the line said it all.

The course proved quite a conundrum for many of the others however; Course Designer Santiago Varela has been making sure that this trophy wouldn't be easily won. The Dutch were well-fancied to add a second Furusiyya title to the world and European gold medals they've scooped up over the last 12 months, but it wasn't to be. Their super-star combination of Jeroen Dubbeldam and SFN Zenith led the way with a 12-fault result, hitting the second element of



Opartny Ales (CZE)



Marlon Modolo Zanotelli (BRA)

the triple combination at fence seven and the following vertical before losing rhythm when the horse broke into a trot in front of the first part of the double, three fences from home, which added another four to their tally.

REINED IT BACK

By the time Gerco Schroder reined it back with a clear when last in for the Dutch side however it had come down to a game of cat-and-mouse between the Germans and Belgians, each with the possibility of finishing on a four-fault final result.

Germany's Christian Ahlmann, one of the four riders in contention for a cut of the €200,000 bonus on offer to riders jumping clear on Thursday and again today, saw that slip from his grasp when clipping the first of the vertical of planks at fence 11, but the crowd was mesmerised by the performance of his team-mate Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum whose fabulous grey gelding, Fibonacci, soared around the course, clearing the fences with such drama and grace that the spectators burst into rapturous applause before the pair had even crossed the finish line to post their clear round.

Daniel Deusser's double error with Cornet D'Amour, at the water and the first element of the double, could still be discounted if German anchor, Ludger Beerbaum, could leave all the poles in place with Chiara. But the first part of the troublesome double at the end of the track, and the penultimate oxer, both fell, so as Wathelet entered the ring victory, or defeat, was in his hands.

Just as he did on Thursday however, he kept a cool head and steered the ten-year-old stallion, Conrad de Hus, home safely to cement his side's four-fault result. He had a big smile on his face as he raised his arm in a victory salute, because he hadn't only clinched the 2015 Furusiyya title, but he had also earned that bonus all for himself.

ROCKETED ONTO THE PODIUM

Meanwhile the British were rocketed onto the podium when Joe Clee produced one of his extraordinarily solid last-to-go rides with his great stallion Utamaro D'Ecaussines. Ben Maher (Diva

II) Jessica Mendoza (Spirit T) had kicked off with just four faults a piece, but Laura Renwick, substituting for Michael Whitaker, had a much less comfortable time, her nine-year-old gelding picking up 16 faults in a round that included a very definite refusal to go down to the four-metre-wide open water at their first attempt. This fence played a major role, with plenty of horses making a splash there. Clee's clear however negated that little hiatus and left the British on eight faults along with the Dutch, but in runner-up spot because their combined times left them almost three seconds faster.

The other eye-catchers of the night were America's Beezie Madden and Cortes C and Ireland's Cian O'Connor and Good Luck who both drew gasps from the crowd as their horses put on jumping exhibitions.

But it was the Belgians who would be enjoying the biggest celebration. They topped the Europe Division one League of the Furusiyya series this summer but, as Chef d'Equipe Dirk Demeersman said tonight, they had "one bad week" at the FEI European Championships in Aachen (GER) last month and failed to qualify for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. The taking of the 2015 Furusiyya trophy however has reminded the world that this country is truly a force to be reckoned with.

HOW TOP SPORT SHOULD BE

The winning team manager congratulated his riders, the course designer and the FEI who found this formula - "how top sport should be!" he said. "It is good for the welfare of the horses, only two rounds each on different days, and it makes for a great competition" he insisted. Jos Lansink, whose eight faults with For Cento was the discard today, said "the course builder should get a good big bonus - I've competed at a lot of events this year but there has never been sport like this - it was just fantastic!"

Judy-Ann Melchior's big hug for her mare as they left the arena today will be one of the iconic memories of this week's Final. Talking tonight



Beezie Madden (USA)



Joe Clee (GBR)

about the delight she felt at having made such a massive contribution to her country's victory, the rider whose father, Leon Melchior, is master of the legendary Zangersheide Stud in Lanaken, Belgium, said, "you have to go back 13 years to where it all began with her because she was born at our place. We've known each other for a very long time and she makes my life very easy, even in a difficult sport like this. She has a heart of gold, she gives me everything - she never makes it difficult, she always tries to help, she's just wonderful!" she said.

Wathelet admitted that "Tonight, I was under the biggest pressure of my life! But I had a good feeling because everyone was trying so hard and Judy-Ann had done a great round. My horse did well again, he's had a great season and this is a great end to it; he will have a month off now at least," he said.

AS GOOD AS IT GETS

FEI Jumping Director John Roche, described this week's competition as "about as good as it gets! This was team jumping at its very best, in front of a full house and at a fantastic venue. I want to thank the Polo Club and the city of Barcelona for hosting another great Final and my thanks also to Furusiyya for their foresight and support. We are always grateful to our partners, Longines, and I'm happy to say we will be back here in Barcelona next year for another great Final!"

The week of exceptional sport owed a great deal to course designer, Santiago Varela, however and Irishman Cian O'Connor was quick to point that out. "When I walked the course this evening I said you'd need to be an Honours Maths student to work it out! But it was one of the best courses I've ever jumped - Santiago is a genius!" he said.

For further information on the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping Final 2015 at Real Club de Polo in Barcelona (ESP) from 24 to 27 September, visit www.csiobarcelona.com or contact Press Officer Isabel Suter, isuter@rcpolo.com, +34 760 258 222.

FINAL RESULT:

1. Belgium 4 faults: H&M Armstrong van de Kakpel (Olivier Philippaerts) 4, As Cold as Ice Z (Judy-Ann Melchior) 0, For Cento (Jos Lansink) 8, Conrad de Hus (Gregory Wathelet) 0.

2. Great Britain 8 faults in 223.14 seconds: Diva II (Ben Maher) 4, Spirit T (Jessica Mendoza) 4, Bintang II (Laura Renwick) 16, Utamaro D'Ecaussines (Joe Clee) 0.

3. Netherlands 8 faults in 226.80 seconds: SFN Zenith NOP (Jeroen Dubbeldam) 12, VDL Groep Verdi Tn NOP (Maikel van der Vleuten) 4, VDL Zirocco Blue NOP (Jur Vrieling) 4, Glock's Cognac Champblanc (Gerco Schroder) 0.

4. USA 12 faults in 219.61 seconds: Nouvelle (Laura Kraut) 8, Cylana (Reed Kessler) 8, Ohlala (Lauren Hough) 4, Cortes C (Beezie Madden) 0.

5. Ireland 12 faults in 221.64 seconds: All Star (Denis Lynch) 8, MHS Going Global (Greg Broderick) 4, Molly Malone V (Bertram Allen) 8, Good Luck (Cian O'Connor) 0.

6. Germany 12 faults in 223.36 seconds: Taloubet Z (Christian Ahlmann) 4, Fibonacci 17 (Meredith Michaels-Berbaum) 0, Cornet D'Amour (Daniel Deusser) 8, Chiara (Ludger Beerbaum) 8.

7. Sweden 16 faults: H&M Tornesch (Malin Baryard-Johnsson) 8, Tinkabell (Angelie von Essen) 8, Unita Ask (Rolf-Goran Bengtsson) 4, Cantinero (Henrik von Eckermann) 4.

8. Switzerland 20 faults: Quorida de Treho (Romain Duguet) 8, Clooney (Martin Fuchs) 4, Bonne Chance CW (Janika Sprunger) 12, Castlefield Eclipse (Paul Estermann) 8.

FULL RESULTS AT LONGINES TIMING AND RESULTS

FACTS AND FIGURES:

A total of eight nations competed in the second and final round of the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping Final 2015 at Real Club de Polo



in Barcelona (ESP) tonight.

All teams started on a zero score, and Team Belgium won the competition outright.

Total prize money for tonight's final competition was €1.5 million with €500,000 going to the winners, €300,000 to the runners-up from Great Britain, €200,000 going to The Netherlands in third place and prize money all the way down to eighth place.

4 riders - Jeroen Dubbeldam (NED), Christian Ahlmann (GER), Rolf-Goran Bengtsson (SWE) and Gregory Wathelet (BEL) were in line for a share of the €200,000 on offer to any rider who could jump clear in the first round on Thursday and again tonight.

Wathelet (Conrad de Hus) was the only one of the four to jump clear again tonight so he bagged the entire bonus.

QUOTES:

Course designer Santiago Varela: "Tonight's course was difficult and technical. I left the riders with many options and after the water jump they had a lot of choices right up until the very end. They had to ride really well to make a clear round but we came up with a very nice result and you can't ask for more than that!"

Belgian Chef d'Equipe Dirk Demeersman: "the horse jumped really good and the riders weren't so bad - there was such an atmosphere here tonight. My riders rode very precisely and they did a great job - I'm really happy with them."

Belgian team member Olivier Philippaerts: "Judy-Ann and Gregory did two beautiful rounds. We had the right team to bring to Barcelona!"

Belgian team member Jos Lansink: "I had a young horse here doing his first Nations Cup - I'm very happy to be a member of this team."

This article was first published on FEI.org

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LONGINES GLOBAL CHAMPIONS TOUR FINAL

**LUCIANA DINIZ IS
CROWNED 2015 CHAMPION**





Scott Brash on Hello Sanctos



Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum on Fibonacci 17

LUCIANA DINIZ AND FIT FOR FUN TOOK THE 2015 CHAMPIONSHIP AFTER WINNING THE FINAL LONGINES GLOBAL CHAMPIONS TOUR GRAND PRIX OF THE SEASON IN SENSATIONAL STYLE. THE INCREDIBLE SPORTING ACTION WENT RIGHT DOWN TO THE WIRE IN DOHA, QATAR, AND THE TOP THREE CONTENDERS HAD FANS ON THE EDGE OF THEIR SEATS UNTIL THE FINAL MOMENT OF THE FINAL ROUND.

It was a magnificent finale at AL SHAQAB with all eyes on the three riders who had battled through the series to be in with a chance of the championship crown - Scott Brash, Luciana Diniz and Rolf-Göran Bengtsson. On the night it was Luciana and her chestnut mare that emerged as the supreme combination of the high octane season.

The Royal Family of Qatar attended the Longines Global Champions Tour event for the second day running and witnessed three strong performances from Qatari national riders, including Sheikh Ali Bin Khalid Al Thani who rode an impressive double clear in the Grand Prix. His Highness The Father Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser Al Missned and Sheikh Joaan Bin Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani enthusiastically applauded Sheikh Ali and watched

the championship prize giving ceremony along with guests in a special cultural VIP tent next to the arena.

It was an epic night of top-level sport at full throttle rounding off a spectacular season. From the opening moments, when the world of show jumping was stunned by the new venue on Miami Beach, the 15-event-circuit powered on to stops including Shanghai, Monaco, Paris, Rome and the final in Doha. Fans across the world grew in numbers during the season watching the increasing international TV coverage and live streaming on GCT TV.

All eyes were on Doha and the three who could take the 2015 season title - Scott Brash (GBR), Luciana Diniz (POR) and Rolf-Göran Bengtsson (SWE). The first round course on the sweeping 520m track in the AL SHAQAB arena was a formidable test; it

demanded ultra-precision and concentration from both horse and rider. In particular, the last line of the course and the triple combination with two oxers was a strong test for the best riders in the world as they competed to earn their place in round two. The bright colours of the fences, often depicting traditional Arabic designs, were also a test for the horses, and the stunning floodlit arena set the backdrop for a dramatic 2015 season finale.

Course designer Uliano Vezzani produced a fittingly formidable first round course for the final showdown of the year. It was described by show jumping legend Ludger Beerbaum: "I definitely believe it is big enough, demanding enough. It may not be super technical but the size is serious."

FIRST ROUND

The time allowed in the first round was tight, with 78 seconds given in total for this challenging course. Doda de Miranda (BRA) was the first to go clear with AD Living the Dream, but picked up an unlucky time fault. He was soon joined by Rene Tebbel (UKR) and Hamad Ali Mohamed Al Attiyah (QAT) who rode clear with Appagino, to the delight of his home

crowd, however all were just caught out by the time allowed.

Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum (GER) was the first to go clear with Fibonacci, and she was delighted with her 10 year old grey gelding. Soon to follow was Qatar's own Bassem Hassan Mohammed with California, and the crowd erupted as their home rider flew over the last.

First to go of the title contenders was Ranking leader Scott Brash (GBR). He and Hello Sanctos flew around but clipped a fence, picking up four faults to the groan of the audience and his fans around the world. The temperature rose as Rolf-Göran Bengtsson (SWE) and Casall ASK were the next title contender to enter the ring, knowing that he would need to win the Grand Prix to be in with a chance of the Champion of Champions Crown.

With the consistency they've shown throughout the season, Rolf and Casall ASK rode a stunning clear - fastest to do so at that point in the competition and pushing Scott down to 15th. As the final riders took their turn, Edwina Tops-Alexander (AUS) clipped a fence meaning that Scott would go through to the



Rolf-Göran Bengtsson on Casall ASK



Sheikh Ali Bin Khalid Al Thani on First Devision

second round, finishing in 18th place and keeping his title hopes alive.

Luciana Diniz (POR) and Fit For Fun 13 were second last to go, and rode a brilliant clear round, the quickest of the riders so far and meaning that the three title contenders would go through to the second round as the intensity rose. The heat was on, with Rolf-Göran Bengtsson needing a double clear in order to go through to the jump-off with a chance of taking the title.

SECOND ROUND

The top eighteen went through to the second round, with Ranking leader Scott Brash and Hello Sanctos first in and with everything to do to keep his title hopes alive. The second layout was, a big but fairly, straightforward course with three big fences to start and a generous time of 77 seconds. A rather awkward line to the treble combination would require plenty of care and scope and a 1,60m vertical penultimate fence caught out a few of the top riders.

Scott rode a beautiful round all the way up until the penultimate fence, just clipping the pole and finishing one eight faults in total with a time of 62.69s. However

as the class progressed, the riders to follow also had fences down, leaving Scott at the top of the eight faulters.

The experienced Ludger Beerbaum (GER) and Chiara were first to go clear, and carried through their four faults after a careful round, but Bertram Allen (IRL) soon pipped his time with the talented Molly Malone V. Rene Tebbel (UKR) and Forlap also went clear however with their one time fault carried over were soon pushed down the order as Sheikh Ali Bin Khalid Al Thani (QAT) and First Devision rode a stunning double clear round, watch on by members of the Qatar Royal Family. The first to ride double clear was followed by Meredith Michaels-Berbaum (GER) and Fibonacci. Despite a heart-stopping moment at the double, it meant there would be a jump-off.

Rolf-Göran Bengtsson (SWE) and Casall ASK were next to go and rode an unbelievable course earning his place in the final round. His title hopes still open; he was followed by Luciana Diniz (POR) who raised the temperature yet higher still by following him into the jump-off. Scott was pushed down the order to 8th, meaning he was no longer in contention for the 2015 Title and it was a two horse race to the finish.

THE JUMP OFF

The final jump off of the season was kicked off by Sheikh Ali Bin Khalid Al Thani however he had two down despite a valiant effort to reach the podium. Meredith Michaels-Berbaum (GER) rode some stunning angles, galloping to the last and flying home with a formidable time of 36.55s and setting the bar for the final two to follow.

The incredible pair of Rolf-Göran Bengtsson and Casall ASK galloped around the course, cutting out strides and pushing to beat Meredith's impressive time. But it wasn't to be, and the formidable duo crossed the line in 37.01 seconds just tenths off the lead. Last to go Luciana Diniz knew that the title was hers, but set out to win the Longines Global Champions Tour Grand Prix of Doha and did so in emphatic style, with the brave Fit For Fun 13 jumping her heart out for the final, crossing the line in 36.10s.

It was a dramatic final showdown to what is been an incredible season, with all the emphasis on the top level of sport and the high calibre profile of the Longines Global Champions Tour.

It was announced that AL SHAQAB will be the stage

for the 2016 championship final of the Longines Global Champions Tour, which will include the new Global Champions League Team Competition launching next year. Speaking about hosting the final again next year, Group Executive Director Administration of Qatar Foundation and AL SHAQAB Fahad Saad Al Qahtani, said: *"It is an honour for us, we are very proud of what you achieved."*

PRESS CONFERENCE

Group Executive Director Administration of Qatar Foundation and AL SHAQAB Fahad Saad Al Qahtani said *"Let me take this opportunity to thank His Highness the Father Emir, Her Highness Sheikhha Moza, Sheikh Joaan and Hamad Al Attiya, the President of the Federation for the support they have given this magnificent event. There is no doubt, for the people even who are not related to the equestrian industry, they had an amazing time, so we all achieved what we wanted. It was exciting moment, an amazing evening and it cannot be better than what we have seen tonight. It is an amazing formula we have achieved tonight and amazing infrastructure. The riders handled the pressure amazingly. The support we had from everybody was outstanding and we came off with a beautiful picture*

of the sport.”

President of Longines: Walter Von Känel, “I am so pleased that my colleague said what he did. It is a pleasure to thank the Global Champions Tour, to thank the locals, to thank all the riders and the horses, thank you to all the volunteers and together we made a big push for the promotion of this equestrian land for jumping and this is fantastic. The spirit, the competition, no accident - this, for me, a farmer’s son, is probably the greatest pleasure I have. I would like to say to Luciana that you and your horse are really a great love story - Fit For Fun is Fit For ‘Love’ with your horse - congratulations. It’s nice to be here and thank you to all the locals and everybody for the promotion of equestrian in this beautiful country.”

Longines Global Champions Tour Founder and President: Jan Tops “As trainer of the Qatari squad, they have had a fantastic season, especially this year - 5th in the overall, today double clear - to beat all these people is very difficult, but at least they are in the game, they are getting good experience, they are riding with more confidence and I am very proud with the way they have developed the last few years. The aim was to qualify for the Olympics, achieve good results in the Longines Global Champions Tour - that’s what they have achieved.”

“Ten years ago we started with six events, this year we’ve done 15 events, with two new events in Miami and Rome. We have very much established our events this year. The quality is much higher, we have a great team of people, our followers on television; the live-streaming is tremendous - it has been growing these past years and if you see what we have achieved in the last 10 years I think it is amazing. We are not tennis, golf or Formula 1 just yet, but the gap is not what it used to be. We have constant development for this year and our sport has a big future.”

“These three riders have been really dominating the sport throughout the whole year. Luciana’s horse was on great form to win today and overall, Rolf has been every time so consistent, everybody wanted him to win, he has been second twice. Also Scott, he has won two times but today he wanted to be friendly to Luciana to allow her to win today! I think they have all between them been by far the best of all the riders.”

Uliano Vezzani, Course Designer: “For me today was not easy but with the great riders who were here, it was amazing. I’m very happy, for me, for the Longines Global Champions Tour. We had great sport. The arena was fantastic, we had also fantastic fences.”

Rolf-Göran Bengtsson, 2015 Longines Global Champions Tour Bronze Medallist: “First of all, I want to say that I really enjoyed doing the Longines

Global Champions Tour and it is a fantastic thing. We go to very nice locations, where we make the sport famous everywhere. I didn’t go directly in the beginning; I started a little but later I have been many times so consistent. To reach third place in the end, I’m still happy with that, of course I wanted to win but that’s life.”

2015 Longines Global Champions Tour Silver Medallist: Scott Brash said “I had a silly fence in the first round, coming out of the double. Ok, this is showjumping so we know it can happen. So I started the second round thinking that I had to be the fastest of the four faulters to have any chance so I went as fast as I could and it’s the reason I had a fence down. But Sanctos has been wonderful all year.”

“I must say I think Luciana really deserves it, she’s been so consistent the whole year, as has Rolf. I think Fit For Fun jumped unbelievable today, it was actually an absolute joy to watch. They jumped fantastic, as did Rolf, so they really deserved it. In the last three legs of the Longines Global Champions Tour they just ran away it, so it’s all credit to both of them.”

2015 Longines Global Champions Tour Gold Medallist: Luciana Diniz said “I was in a winning mood spirit today and riding Fit For ‘Love’ makes my life easier. It’s true, if you ride with love and you believe in what you do it makes your life easier. So this success to be here, I am not alone in that - I have to thank all of you as well, the Longines Global Champions Tour, all the supporters, Doha, AL SHAQAB. And now my team, my fantastic horses, Fit for ‘Love’, Winning-mood who has been in great shape this year. I love this name by the way! I think we have arrived with a different story in our sport, with a new image as well for the sport - I’m not saying it’s going to be like tennis one day but I think we’re respectable now, people are looking for us with a different spirit now and I’m very happy to be here today. These two boys were gentlemen today and let the lady be first so I’m very happy with that.”

“Scott and Rolf are so good, if I would think about focusing on them and what they are going to do I would be lost. So I just said I’d focus on myself and what my horse can do and I’m just going to be with her there, together we are one and that was my strategy today - just focus on the both of us. Fit For Love was in love with me.” 🐾

This article was first published on:

<http://www.globalchampionstour.com/>

The final took place in Doha, Qatar, from November 12 - 15

For full results, see: <http://tinyurl.com/q6y76ya>

All photos © LGCT/Stefano Grasso



Luciana Diniz on Fit For Fun

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL WITH COURSE DESIGNER AHMED TALAAT

By Khaled Assem

A YOUNG GENTLEMAN LIVING HIS LIFE BETWEEN EGYPT AND LONDON, AN ENGINEER, A COURSE DESIGNER WITH LOVE AND PASSION FOR HORSES SHARES BITS AND PIECES OF HIS LIFE, PASSION, CAREER, ASPIRATIONS AND DREAMS WITH HORSE TIMES.

© HORSETIMES

A Course Designer on the Go

My work as a course designer opens the world for me to travel and explore. Just like a traveller, I spend every weekend in a different city, with different people from various cultures. Also, when I started working as an architect, I had to travel continuously between Egypt and London, so I am always on the go. My professional life definitely affects my personal life as I have no other option except long distance relationships or whatever you want to call it. I am still searching for the Mrs; I am still young and the night is still young for me.

Professional life

What are you doing at the moment in terms of core business? I know that you have quite a big investment in terms of effort and achievement in the equestrian field, but I also know you are an engineer so tell us a little bit about both sides.

I work as an architect and I do a lot of work in Egypt, London and different other countries. As for my equestrian-related work, it has been part of my life since I was 17 years old, and then I decided to follow the career path of an architect to make a good living.

Once, the course designer Arno Gego asked me why I was studying engineering. I answered right away saying that it makes a person stronger. Engineering, in one way or another, improves your talent and architecture makes you creative in a way that makes you see shapes and forms with your own eyes. That was only my point of view and Arno Gego shared with me his philosophy on being an engineer. His words were as follows: It will make you stronger in decision making as the nature of the business environment comes with challenges and paths to follow. He continued saying your values have to be your compass. For example, if you are only doing business, you will always say yes to requests and offers, but it will actually make you a stronger person to say no if something goes against your beliefs. This way you will improve because you will be the way you want to be, not the way anyone else wants you to be.

How do you manage being a course designer and an engineer simultaneously? Also, could you tell us a little bit about your qualifications now as a course designer?

I am actually never restricted to one place only; my work takes me to Egypt, London among other countries. My business as an architect is basically a full-time job. It takes a lot of my time that I used to dedicate for shows. For example, out of 52 weekends a year, I used to do at least 30, now I participate in only three to four international shows a year.

Did that affect your continuous intake of experience?

Definitely! However, I am always studying in one way or another. I always surf the internet and see what other international course designers do, I watch a lot of shows and I analyse them from my dimension, so I am always up-to-date as to what is happening. It is only when I stop following, I feel bad as I wish I have been part of a great event that I could leave an impact on. On other hand, I have my satisfaction from the other business that helped me a lot to be who I am now. I am still thanking God for doing both and if time were to go back I think I would have made the same choices.

Dreams and Aspirations

For the near future, I want to keep learning and improving in what I am doing. If you ask me about my dreams, it actually has nothing to do with architecture. I have always dreamt to be the first Arab course designer in the World Equestrian Games or the Olympics.

I think I was the only Arab to be the main course designer in a World Cup qualifier. I might have been the second; I am not sure. I am one of the few whose international course designing banners are level three which is the highest level you can apply for.

Passions

I have a new passion for tattoos. It is like an addiction; when you get

the first one, you cannot stop. I got four tattoos in seven months. For me, getting a tattoo is not about a good design, it is about something you already carry in your heart and soul and believe in at the back of your mind. I can answer all questions about why I got this tattoo in particular, but it will never tell the full story. If it was only about the design, I will get bored of it in couple of months.

One of my dearest passions is cooking. I try to explore and try new recipes and watch different cooking shows. One of the role models in my life is chef Gordon Ramsay.

Also, football is one of my passions. I love Chelsea in particular and Zamalek.

And it goes without saying, horses of course.

How travelling added its own touch

Living in London has definitely changed something in me. It is a city where everything is available. If you want to go to museums and art galleries, you will find it. If you want to go clubbing, you will find variety of nice bars and lounges and if you want to have a fine diner, it offers the best quality. Whatever you want, you have the high end of it.

Your eyes get used to the nice things, just like riding. If you go to a show for five weeks and you see Steve Garda riding a seven year old, and then he is riding his Olympic horse in the main arena and then a stopper horse in the open arena. When you see this every day for five weeks, your standards become higher by default.

And horses...

I am grateful I had horses as part of my life. My love for horses stopped me from doing a lot of bad things my friends went through at a younger age. I learned a lot from my boss and role model Dr. Tarek Nadeem. I met his sons, who are my best friends, through sharing a love for horse. When I look back at everything, horses have been involved in every part of my life. I could not be more grateful knowing I am in the right place. 🐾

RABAB ARABIAN CHAMPIONSHIP INTERNATIONAL S-SHOW

By Aya Amr

The Results for the Yearling Fillies A (Class 1A) >> <http://tinyurl.com/heenhnp>

The Results for the Yearling Fillies B (Class 1B) >> <http://tinyurl.com/h9td85k>

The Results for the Yearling Fillies C (Class 1C) >> <http://tinyurl.com/jcrs933>

The Results for the Yearling Fillies D (Class 1D) >> <http://tinyurl.com/z7vkb68>

The Results for the Fillies 2 years A (Class 2A) >> <http://tinyurl.com/njyg9kd>

The Results for the Fillies 2 years B (Class 2B) >> <http://tinyurl.com/pmmgbw5>

The Results for the Fillies 3 years (Class 3) >> <http://tinyurl.com/nrhppgx>

The Results for the Mares 4-6 years (Class 4) >> <http://tinyurl.com/qgz3pqj>

The Results for the Mares 7 years + (Class 5) >> <http://tinyurl.com/hwl9qp3>

The Results for the Yearling Colts A (Class 6A) >> <http://tinyurl.com/zxzbm4>

The Results for the Yearling Colts B (Class 6B) >> <http://tinyurl.com/zzqg6op>

The Results for the Colts 2 years (Class 7) >> <http://tinyurl.com/zp9xo6j>

The Results for the Colts 3 years (Class 8) >> <http://tinyurl.com/zqra27b>

The Results for the Stallions 4-6 years (Class 9) >> <http://tinyurl.com/gq8wgy2>

The Results for the Stallions 7 years + (Class 10) >> <http://tinyurl.com/hp9jd99>

The Results for the Champ: Yearling Female (Class 11) >> <http://tinyurl.com/hrg3xdp>

The Results for the Champ: Junior Female (Class 12) >> <http://tinyurl.com/hsf8c5g>

The Results for the Champ: Senior Female (Class 13) >> <http://tinyurl.com/zd3ykxe>

The Results for the Champ: Yearling Male (Class 14) >> <http://tinyurl.com/ptzd6wa>

The Results for the Champ: Junior Male (Class 15) >> <http://tinyurl.com/o26aqxy>

The Results for the Champ: Senior Male (Class 16) >> <http://tinyurl.com/pyno2vr> 🏆



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60 SECONDS WITH AMINA AMMAR

By Aya Amr

COUNTRY: EGYPT

DATE OF BIRTH: JUNE 19

STAR SIGN: GEMINI

PROFESSION: PROFESSIONAL SHOW JUMPING
RIDER

Tell us a little about yourself.

My name is Amina Ammar. I was born in Augsburg, Germany on the 19th of June, so I'm a Gemini!

My father is Egyptian and my mother is German. I have one younger brother.

I grew up in Ismailia where I started my riding journey at the Suez Canal Club, yet all the credit goes to my mother's sister who discovered my passion for horses when I was only two years old and that was my first time being on a horse's back!

I have graduated from the Suez Canal University earning a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Can you describe your typical practice?

I go check on my horse, Big Ben, daily. First, I take him for a 30-minute-walk in the track, then back to the arena to work him out. And then, I like to let him free in the paddock and by end of the day, he gets another 30-minute-walk.

Where is your favourite place for practice?

There is no specific place that I like; I am fine with any place as long as it has greenery in the area. Simply, a nice, big and well established arena with good facilities for jumping would do. What matters most is my horse's happiness in the place. As long as he is happy, I am happy.

Describe some of the funny experiences you have had practicing?

Couple of years ago, my horse was still green and I was riding him at a stable in Sakkara practicing some flat work as usual. Suddenly, my horse decided to take me for a run! He jumped over the arena fence, ran as a Ferrari and all of a sudden stopped at the edge of a small canal! I just could not do anything but slide down his neck, in a very elegant way, of course! landing inside the dark water enjoying the lovely smell of it! I won't forget that evil smile on my horse's face while looking at me down in the water!

Tell us one or two things in your training that contributed to your success.

Show jumping is a sport performed by a rider and a horse. I strongly believe that the best way to willingly get the maximum potential out of my horse is by building a strong bond between us and dealing with my horse as a partner not just a tool!

What was the best advice you were given?

To set a clear goal and to believe in my capabilities to achieve it through hard work, focus and faith. That was the best advice I was given.

What advice would you give to young athletes?

It is a long journey to success. It takes a lot of hard work, patience and real passion for the sport.

What is your best achievement?

I got Big Ben, my horse, when he was four years old. He was a totally green horse, and I took him gradually up from that stage to be one of the Top six in the C Class 2013, winner of the Egyptian National League and Egyptian Cup in the B Class 2014, landing in the A1 Class. We're achieving good results so far.

What are the goals that you aspire to achieve?

My real dream and biggest goal is to reach and participate in the Olympic Games.

Who has been your greatest support?

My parents were my greatest support at a very young age. They believed in me and gave me all the love and support needed at that time. The trainers I had at each stage of my life as well.

Now, I am very grateful for the non-stop support I get from my partner and best friend who always gives me all the possible support and never stopped believing in me.

What are your greatest motivations?

My greatest motivations are my results and chocolate!

Who is your sporting hero?

I do not have a specific sporting hero, but I have an idol who is a French rider; she is called Penelope Leprovost.

What is your second favourite sport?

Horseback riding is MY LIFE! sometimes I jog to stay fit.

What is your favourite genre of movies?

I am totally into movies. All kinds of movies are okay with me except horror movies, I get scared!

What kind of music do you enjoy listening to?

I mostly listen to Pop music.

What is your favourite book and who is your favourite author?

Honestly, I am not a big fan of reading but, when I do, I read mostly about horses and horse's nutrition.

What is your favourite food?

Sushi and pizza. Plus chocolate of course!

What is the most memorable place you ever visited?

I travel around quite often. But I guess that Venice was the place that most amazed me.

What is your strength and what is your weakness?

I am very passionate about what I am doing; I am very ambitious as well. But I think I need to work more on my long-term future plans.

What is the biggest challenge you have ever faced?

The loss of my beloved grandfather. I have never stopped missing him.

What is the biggest reward you ever got?

My parents being proud of me!

If you had the power to change something in this world, what would you change?

In Egypt, I would solve the traffic problems - ha! But seriously, I would love to have this power to stop war and people killing each other around the world.

If there is something about yourself that you would like to change, what would that be?

We are all just humans! Having our good and bad sides in our personalities, but I would appreciate if my heart could give some more space to my mind when making decisions in my life!

If you weren't who you are today, who would you rather be?

Nobody else, I am thankful and grateful to Allah for who I am.

Finally, which question would you ask yourself?

Have I set achievable goals? Am I good enough? 🙏

SOFITEL HORSE SHOW AT FEROUSIA CLUB

A HOST OF YOUNG FRESH TALENT IN THE HEART OF ZAMALEK

By Engy Adham

AS THE OLD SAYING GOES, "THE FIVE S'S OF SPORTS TRAINING ARE:
STAMINA, SPEED, STRENGTH, SKILL, AND SPIRIT; BUT THE GREATEST OF
THESE IS SPIRIT."

S O F I T E L
LUXURY HOTELS



Spirit was indeed the hallmark of the Sofitel Cairo El Gezira Hotel Horse Show held in late November in cooperation with the Ferosia Club under the auspices of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation (EEF). Not only did the gathering of the riders, families and friends create a warm and friendly atmosphere, but the cultural fabric of the event was a true symbol of the long lasting bond between the Egyptian and French culture, through the involvement of Sofitel.

The French Olympic rider Thierry Pomel, the winner of the Grand Prix in Egypt in 1997 and a team and individual silver medallist at the World Equestrian Games in Rome in 1998, was a special rider invited to participate in the event and his presence demonstrated a revival of Egyptian/French bond through mutual interest in the equestrian sport.

Three days before the horse show, representatives of Sofitel, in cooperation with the Ferosia Club with the support of the French General Manager of UNIC Jean Yves Camenen, organized a technical training workshop to prepare the riders for the competition. The technical training workshop was led by Thierry Pomel.

In celebration of the young and fresh talent, 20 riders received an intensive technical training workshop during the 17, 18 and 19 November. Pomel gave his helpful instructions, instructive feedback and precise tips for each rider. Pomel designed a training course for the riders starting from tricky turns, challenging track and obstacles that required optimum control of the horse in between fences.

“Keep your balance, control, keep him straight, control, make every transition count, keep your pace slow, control, keep your hands soft, and control.” This was Pomel’s voice resonating around every corner in the arena.

Pomel gave step-by-step advice to each rider to make sure they were fully aware



Merit Fanous explaining the course to the audience and the children



The prize giving



Hana El Gharabawy riding Habiba



Thierry Pomel, Mr. Laurent Betourne and his daughter, Ms. Charlotte



The young children during their course



Gen. Said Moawad, Thierry Pomel, Mr. Jean Yves Camenen, Mr. Ramy Iskander, Mr. Bakr Hashem and Mohamed Selim Zaki Junior

of their mistakes and, accordingly, could improve.

The training workshop came to an end with a theoretical session sharing the “dos and don’ts” of horse riding in order to grasp a holistic approach to thinking before the competition. The competitions started on November 20 at 5 p.m. Eyes have been on riders competing and performing at their best. More than 50 riders competed at the Show; family and friends of the riders enjoyed the newly renovated spaces of Ferosia Club.

The event included three levels. The first one was the pony level where young riders had to do cavaletti work. The second level reached a height of 80 – 90 cm. As for the third level, it has been set to 1 to 1.10 meter. The course had been customised to meet, yet challenge, the abilities of the riders. As for fences number eight and nine, believe me, they were the ones that needed full control. After a turn that slow down the pace coming onto three related distances.

The show celebrated the Ferosia Club’s renovations with soft ethereal light shining through freshly watered trees. As for the arena, it has been nurtured with the right amount of sand mixed with enough stabilising fibre along with enough water to produce a perfectly consistent arena and perfect footing.

At the end of the day, special thanks go to the General Manager of Sofitel, Laurent Betourne, and board members of Ferosia Club for making such an event happen and for the President of the EEF for supporting the Ferosia club and equestrian sport.

An announcement of the grand prize winners marked the end of the Show, flashes of cameras captured special moments of winners celebrating the horse show and the deep and abiding Egyptian/French equestrian bond was documented in the memory of an equestrian community. 📸

All photos by Sherif Alyamany

GLOBAL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE VS FEI BATTLE

A LEGAL DEBATE TO COME TO AN END

By Piotr M. Wawrzyniak

HORSE TIMES PRESENTS ITS SECOND IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES ADDRESSING LEGAL TOPICS AFFECTING THE EQUESTRIAN WORLD. MR. WAWRZYNIAK OF THE FIRM US-EUROPEAN EQUINE LAWYERS PROVIDES A VERY TIMELY EXPERT LEGAL ANALYSIS OF THE OUTCOME OF THE GCL/FEI BATTLE FOR CONTROL.

INTRODUCTION

Global Champions League (GCL) is a new league and team competition developed by the owners of the Global Champions Tour. This new league and competition led to a major dispute between the FEI and the organisation of GCL. In June 2015, GCL filed a complaint and requested the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) for measures to suspend the FEI exclusivity clause with regards to GCL. This FEI exclusivity clause prevents riders who competed in the events that were not approved by the FEI from taking part in any FEI event for a period of six months.

The BCA suspended the FEI exclusivity clause with regards to GCL, but the FEI was not happy about this decision and appealed it to the Court of Appeal in Brussels.

The dispute has now only been compounded by the recent decision of the Brussels Court of Appeal on 22 October, 2015 by which the preliminary decision of the BCA was upheld, striking down the exclusivity clause.

The BCA DECISION AND THE COURT OF APPEAL

The Bca Decision was welcomed by a vast majority of riders and horse owners. At the same time it apparently fuelled the FEI's fears about losing its dominant role in the equestrian world. To a large group

of stakeholders in the equestrian community these fears seem to be rather unfounded. In the end the FEI remains the international governing body of Olympic equestrian sports consisting of national federations. Preserving its monopoly, however goes way too far when it comes to organizing international equestrian events by formally prohibiting riders to compete in any non-FEI event.

Unsatisfied with the outcome of the proceedings the FEI challenged the Bca Decision of the Court of Appeal in Brussels that had upheld that decision.

FIERCE REACTION FROM THE FEI

The decision was given on 22 October, 2015 and led to a fierce reaction of the FEI. For instance, the FEI commented upon the decision of the Court of Appeal in a press release issued on 10 November, 2015 with the following statement:

"Horse welfare and sporting integrity are the two key principles of the unsanctioned events rule, and these principles can only be protected and promoted by putting in place rules, including anti-doping and veterinary regulations, and by making acceptance of international events onto the official calendar conditional upon the Organising Committee adopting all of those regulations and making

them binding on all participants in those events. Without these rules, we have no way of safeguarding the welfare of horses and athletes participating in such events, or of protecting the integrity of the events."

"We are confident that the European Commission will accept that legislation on unsanctioned events is not against the EU anti-trust rules."

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

The FEI believed that the Bca Decision caused serious and immediate prejudice to the FEI and to the common good. They argued that the provisional measures established under the Bca Decision would further hamper the very function of the FEI in its capacity as the governing body of equestrian sport. Moreover, they would damage the reputation of equestrian sport, the FEI and all National Equestrian Federations that are members of the FEI.

The common good, the welfare of horses, riders and the general public would be compromised by the Bca Decision, which would allow equestrian events to be run by GCL, and invites other organisers to do the same, without: i.) veterinary controls ii.) anti-doping tests iii.) betting controls iv.) controls of compliance with the rules of the



sport, fair play and uniformity of the rules of the sport.

The FEI further argued that, "With the abolition of the rule on the non-FEI approved events, organizers of such non-FEI approved events would not, in practice, be bound to adhere to any of the rules of the FEI in respect of the protection of the welfare of horses and the integrity of competition, as the FEI has no control whatsoever over the actions of those participating in non-accredited competitions including GCL." According to the FEI, the Bca Decision would have the effect of undermining the credibility of the governing body and would enable the riders to choose whether or not to comply with the rules of the FEI.

It is hard to organise and structure the official schedule of competitions with a view to maintaining a balance between the various interests at stake.

The Bca Decision would further prevent the FEI from establishing an official schedule of competitions that enables the national teams to improve their performance with a view to qualifying for regional and world competitions and the Olympic Games and could trigger a chain reaction.

FEI ARGUMENTS DISMISSED

The arguments of the FEI were dismissed by the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal considered that the upholding of the Bca Decision does not relieve GCL of the obligation to comply with the rules of the FEI relating to the protection of the welfare of horses

according to the Code of Ethics for the Welfare of Horses, Veterinary Regulations, the Equine Controlled Medication Regulations of the FEI and the integrity of competition (the Anti-Doping Rules for Human Athletes and the Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations). Moreover, parties in the proceedings themselves have committed to adhering to the regulations of the FEI relating to horse welfare and the integrity of competition during the Global Champions League and to submit to the controls of the FEI at their own expense. The Court of Appeal also observed that the Statutes and Regulations of the Global Champions League stipulated sanctions (penalties and disqualifications) to anyone found to have violated horse welfare or mistreated a horse and liability for fines and other penalties, including disqualification from the event or exclusion from the League.

The Court of Appeal also considered that the FEI failed to demonstrate how the organizing of the GCL would adversely impact "protection of horse welfare and of the integrity of the sport" and or would create "a risk in respect of the showcasing of international competitions".

These negative effects on horse welfare and integrity of the sport seem to be from our perspective rather non-existent. If the FEI is really concerned about these issues and would like to mitigate this alleged risk the FEI could propose to carry out controls during the GCL events to ensure compliance of a respective event with the Code of Ethics for the Welfare of Horses, Veterinary Regulations, the Equine Controlled Medication Regulations

of the FEI.

The Court of Appeal, as an outsider to the equestrian sport, correctly evaluated the FEI arguments. They are basically non-arguments, especially when one realizes who the driving forces are behind the GCL.

GOING FORWARD

The Bca Decision is not of general application. It concerns only the GCL. Though, it may be a precedent in the equestrian world leading to new leagues and tours being organized outside of the FEI. Evidently, the FEI is currently enjoying a predominant role in the equestrian world fulfilling many roles at the same time. It's a governing body and it is an organizer and a marketer of equestrian events. Facing the Bca Decision the FEI probably realises that its own financial interest is at stake. 🐾

All photos by Cymon Taylor

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References:

Piotr Wawrzyniak is a practicing lawyer at Schelstraete Advocaten in Tilburg (Netherlands).

"FEI Bureau Agrees Unanimously to Take Strong Stance on GCL Case." FEI. 10 Nov. 2015.



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THE OPENING OF A GRAND ESTATE

By Aya Amr

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The trophies



Mr. George Valladier giving his speech and Dr. Ahmed Bahgat



Dr. Ahmad Bahgat and Ezzat El Alaily



Mr. George Valladier congratulating Manaf Elgabry



Manaf Elgabry receiving his prize money from Mr. & Mrs. Ahmed Bahgat, Omar Bahgat and the President of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation, Gen. Hesham Hatab

From Dreamland's broad portfolio of exceptional projects, Pegasus Equestrian Center lies in a league of its own. Located on a 30,000 sq. meter property, the equestrian center is lavishly designed to host 63 horses at an extravagant level of comfort and safety, providing each box with robust ventilation and 24 hours video surveillance. It contains a 10,000 sq. meters show ground, complete with a Spring Garden and furnished with a fiber main arena, as well as a 1,500 sq. meter warm-up and dressage arena.

The grounds and arena are surrounded by a circular track one km long, providing luxurious unique

facilities for trainers and riders alike. PEC has a clinic, with a vet consultant, that makes periodic visits from abroad. On staff they have available grooms, a blacksmith and a certified trainer.

By nature of its features, the center is well equipped to host both local and international competitions. Through the top level modern infrastructure and international staffing with multilingual possibilities to serve local and foreign clients, focus on customer care and services and the quality of comfort provided for the horses, Dr. Ahmed Bahgat said in an interview with HT: "We are very proud to say that Dreamland

is a project that has no equivalent in the world; our new addition to the project is the Equestrian Center. It took a very long time for this club to come to light with this quality; our aim is to develop the idea of the equestrian sport in Egypt." He added that the equestrian sport will add a lot to our society through the value of horsemanship.

George Valladier, the designer and executive of the project mentions, "I think of this club as a palace. I included all the elements that will make this a destination for international championships, and we have the intention of creating an international

competition with the name of Dreamland."

The six-bar-showjumping competition was the highlight of the recent opening. PEC celebrated 30 riders through a majestic opening performing at their best with confidence, determination and faith to win. It started at the height of 1.40 metres and ended at 1.95 metres. The competition was very intense and, at the end, it was Manaf Elgabry with his chestnut, Locko, the champion of the day. 🏆

All photos by Right Click

TRAINING TIPS

THE INNER PERSPECTIVE OF THE JUMP

By Khaled Assem

THERE IS A CONTINUOUS BOND BETWEEN THE RIDER AND HIS HORSE. THIS BOND IS BASED ON MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, COMMON TRAINING AND ACCEPTANCE.

The goal is to help the horse to maintain a calm attitude while moving forward utilizing well his body and muscles while staying attentive to the riders' aids.

The mode of communication

between the horse and rider is a special language based on the aids of the rider and the memory of the horse. This language and those aids will never take solid hold unless they are received with acceptance and trust from the

horse. So the aids are an effective ingredient and acceptance is another effective ingredient.

During the course, the horse must show total obedience, actually a better term is acceptance, as tension will not allow the horse to show his full potential whether before, over or after the jump. A rider must ensure his own acceptance, confidence and calmness to be able to communicate these through to his horse.

Another essential ingredient to the success of the jump is the willingness of the horse. Willingness to respond to the aids of the rider to allow for

smooth turns allowing the rider to gallop calmly to a big fence and to feel and manage his take off point while the horse responds willingly.

Most importantly, the horse has to accept moving forward in a straight manner to harness his full power using both of his legs together on take-off while staying straight all through.

On a further note, there is another important element to the jump that we must consider; a rider with his own centre of gravity plus that of the horse, both combined in continuous motion. The horse and rider act as a projectile over the fence subject to the forces of

gravity as well.

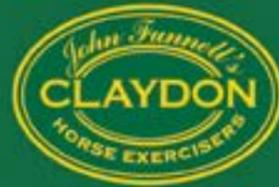
As a unit, the centre of gravity of the horse and rider must stay in vertical alignment otherwise the equilibrium will be adversely affected.

These are some deeper considerations and variables that affect the general performance and purity of a successful jump.

All photos by Cymon Taylor

*About the author:
Eng. Khaled Assem is a certified Level 2 FEI trainer. He has been training for over 15 years, competing internationally for 10 years and locally for 25 years.*





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THE ART OF CLASSICAL DRESSAGE

IMPULSION

By Emad Eldin Zaghloul

IMPULSION IS THE MOVEMENT OF A HORSE WHEN IT IS GOING FORWARD WITH CONTROLLED POWER. RELATED TO THE CONCEPT OF COLLECTION, IMPULSION HELPS A HORSE EFFECTIVELY USE THE POWER IN ITS HINDQUARTERS. TO ACHIEVE IMPULSION, A HORSE IS NOT USING SPEED, BUT MUSCULAR CONTROL; THE HORSE EXHIBITS A RELAXED SPINAL COLUMN, WHICH ALLOWS ITS HINDQUARTERS TO COME WELL UNDER ITS BODY AND “ENGAGE” SO THAT THEY CAN BE USED IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE MANNER TO MOVE THE HORSE FORWARD AT ANY SPEED.

The concept and term was first written about by practitioners of dressage, but an ability to move with impulsion is a desired goal in most other equestrian disciplines. Impulsion occurs when a horse is under human control and is one of the desired goals in horse training, but it may sometimes be exhibited by a horse in a free and natural state. Impulsion allows any horse gait to be more elastic and light. It also provides the animal with the power needed to perform complex movements, including the piaffe and the airs above the ground. Within the dressage world, there is an unresolved debate whether impulsion can only occur in gaits which have a period of suspension, the trot and canter, or if it occurs at any gait, including the walk and the ambling gaits.

DEFINITIONS

There are competing definitions of impulsion. The 2007 USDF rule book defines it as “...Thrust. Releasing of the energy stored by engagement. The energy is transmitted through a back that is free from negative tension and is manifested in the horse’s elastic, whole-body movement.” The classical dressage trainer Nuno Oliveira described impulsion as, “...A mental and physical state of the horse to obey the rider’s demands as fast as possible, to move forward and to maintain his forward impulsion without support from the aids...” and “Impulsion means to maintain the energy within the cadence.” Another definition is that “a horse is said to have impulsion when the energy created by the hind legs is being transmitted into the gait and into every aspect of the forward movement. A horse can be said to

be working with impulsion when it pushes off energetically from the ground and swings its feet well forward.” The USEF states, “*Impulsion is the term used to describe the transmission of an eager and energetic, yet controlled propulsive energy generated from the hindquarters into the athletic movement of the horse. Its ultimate expression can be shown only through the horse’s soft and swinging back to be guided by a gentle contact with the rider’s hand.*”

In competitive dressage circles, impulsion is defined by the German Training Scale, which states that impulsion is only possible in gaits having a moment of suspension, such as the trot and canter, but not the walk. This is the current position of the USDF. However others differ, however. Oliveira described impulsion as necessary at all paces: “*If your horse goes from walk to trot without changing the head and neck position, the walk had good impulsion.*” Outside the world of competitive dressage, impulsion is considered necessary at all gaits, encouraged in gaited horses and in horses used for western riding. Impulsion at the walk is encouraged and judged in many lower level dressage and combined driving competitions that do not necessarily follow the current trends in international judging.

PURPOSE AND REQUIREMENTS

Impulsion is very important in all equestrian disciplines, because good impulsion allows the horse to effectively utilize the power in its hindquarters. Impulsion is particularly important in dressage. It not only makes the horse’s gait

more elastic, light and expressive, but provides the animal with the power needed to perform the required movements. This is especially true for those requiring collection, such as passage, piaffe, pirouette, tempi changes. In jumping poor impulsion is often linked to horses failing to clear obstacles

Good riding is needed to create impulsion in any horse, although some horses may be built in such a way that they can more naturally create impulsion (such as those with an “uphill” build). The horse must be forward, yet relaxed, and coming correctly “on the bit” by coming up through the back. Additionally, a horse must be straight, with “throughness.” The rider should use correct driving aids, and contain the energy created by the engaged hind legs. Ideally, this is accomplished through persuasion of the horse, not bullying.

Impulsion occurs in all gaits: the walk, the trot, plus the canter and even the ambling gaits of gaited horses. Because the walk has no moment of suspension, it is a difficult gait to perform with impulsion. Impulsion at various gaits may not always appear the same. In the walk, it is seen when the hindquarters are engaged and the gait is “purposeful yet relaxed.” The USEF describes impulsion at the piaffe as follows: “The piaffe must always be animated by a lively impulsion and characterized by a perfect balance. While giving the impression of being in place there may be a visible inclination to advance, this being displayed by the horse’s eager acceptance to move forward as soon as he is asked.”

PHILIPPE LEMIRE

WHEN PASSION TAKES THE LEAD

By Engy Adham

THE HORSE LOVING FRENCH PHOTOGRAPHER PHILIPPE LEMIRE HAS FOUND HIS WAY TO THE WORLD OF EQUESTRIAN SPORT THROUGH HIS LENS. FOLLOWING LEMIRE'S PROFESSIONAL TIMELINE, YOU CAN SEE THAT HE HAS A HEART FULL OF LOVE FOR HORSES; IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME FOR THIS SPARK TO FLOURISH

From a full time computer instructor, director of horse stables, then to a national equestrian coach, Lemire found his heart and soul in photography. Since then, Lemire and his camera have been inseparable.

Lemire started his journey in the equestrian world teaching children principles of breeding, cleaning and dressing a young horse. He has been coaching and preparing novice horse riders to be able to join the big competitions. He accumulated experience that qualifies him to organize competitions.

Lemire's rich journalistic history equipped him with great experiences. He started as a photojournalist for many French newspapers and publications such as: France Soir newspaper, VSD magazine and Paris Match magazine. For 25 years, he has been heavily involved in photojournalism in France until he owned his own stable. Since then, he merged his love for journalism and photography with his passion for horses; he has been accompanying famous riders and travelling around many countries shooting equestrian events and competitions. He has featured Abdelkebir from Morocco and many others from Cuba, Canada, USA, Mauritius and many other countries.

Lemire's passion for photography has been crowned by many international events he showcased through his lens. Philippe Lemire has captured the beautiful moments of the 2015 Salon du Cheval d'El Jadida in Morocco, CHI Geneva 2015 and the 2015 Longines Global Champions Tour in Paris. The latest of his work simply shows that the making of a photograph requires more than a good camera and an excellent lens; it requires passion. 📸



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Siham Moharram at the exhibition



Madam Siham has been painting since 1959. Her very meticulous touch and passion for the art has led to the development of an impressive oeuvre of more than 60 paintings.

"I have pursued my lifelong dream of being an artist and I am now enjoying the results of this success with my family through such exhibitions held nationally and internationally," Moharram said.

The Director of the Academy of Arts and Dean of the Higher Institute of Ballet Dr. Ahlam Younis and the Director of the 25/30 Hall for Graphics and Fine Arts Dr. Mohamed Azab escorted Madam Siham, along with her distinguished guests, at the opening of the exhibition.

"I have been painting since I was in high school, but I got busy with my studies along with my professional

and personal life, and I stopped painting for 25 years," Moharram continues. "I started painting again using oil colours with my original wood burning to further improve and develop my artwork."

She uses the art of "drawing with fire" to tell the story of her love and passion for horses.

The Academy of Arts is a large educational complex in Cairo established by the Ministry of Culture to reinforce the importance of the Egyptian culture and revive it through various disciplines of arts.

All photos by Islam Khaled

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND FOR COMMISSIONS, CALL: +2 0100 999 6920

SIHAM MOHARRAM EXHIBITION AT ACADEMY OF ARTS

A NATURAL TALENT

EGYPTIAN PROFESSIONAL WOOD BURNING ARTIST SIHAM MOHARRAM WAS SHOWCASED AT THE ACADEMY OF ARTS THIS PAST DECEMBER; THE EXHIBITION GATHERED MANY REPUTED AND DISTINGUISHED ARTISTS AND ART AFICIONADOS IN THE ART SCENE IN EGYPT.



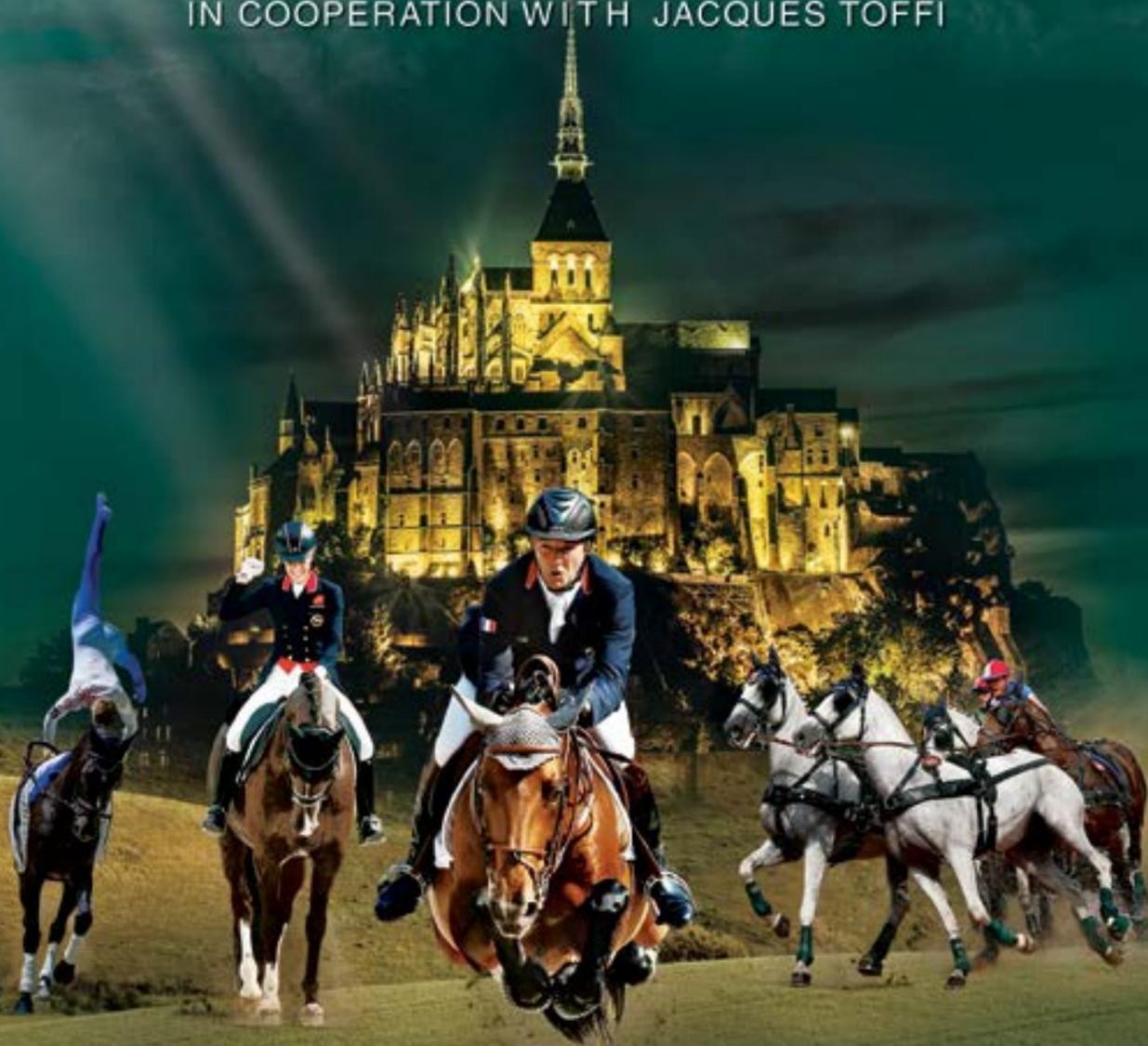
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