

HORSE TIMES



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THE LEADING EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE IN THE MIDDLE EAST



ABDELKADER SAID

THE EGYPTIAN RIDER WHO TOOK EUROPE BY STORM

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VIEW POINT

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear Readers,

Motivation is the main drive to evolution, evolution is the need for change; change is not just adaptation but progression to a better version as compared to the existing one.

Our team is motivated to always evolve to adapt and provide a better version of how the equestrian world can and will evolve in terms of riders, officials, sponsors and audience.

In this issue of Horse Times we start with an in depth interview with Egyptian star **Abdelkader Said** telling us his thoughts and aspirations for the future, on to this year's highlight of horse racing with **Dubai World Cup 2019**, followed by the Polo highlight in Egypt "**EL-Gouna Beach Polo Silver Cup**" pushing the standards in this year's edition!

A blast from the past with Frank Waters' "**The Golden Age of Showjumping**" telling us the amazing story of Caroline Bradley and Milton; followed by our second episode of the interview with **Nayel Nassar** and the Egyptian Olympic dreams for Tokyo 2020.

A dressage insight by **Emmad Eldin Zaghloul** followed by the highlights of our meeting with the very intriguing international course designer **Ahmed Talaat** and his new career path as an actor.

Morocco with a never ending dedication to the Equestrian sport and details about **King Mohamed VI International Polo Cup**, Equine Support International giving us the elements of success of the **Dutch Training system**.

Medical tips by **Dr.Ashraf El-Kalla** through his case study of the Navicular Syndrome, a legal insight of the **International Equine Law Congress 2019** and an amazing book review by Bridget McKinney on **Danny Emerson's new book**.

And finally our Art Corner with David Noalia and Siham Muharram.

Read on and enjoy,

Khaled Assem

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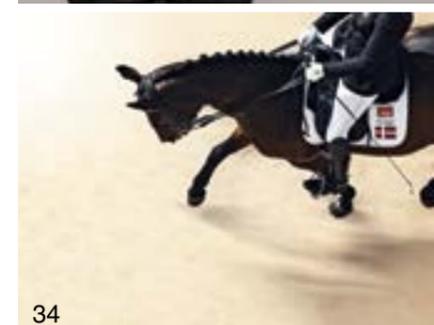
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ABELKADER SAID

THE EGYPTIAN RIDER
WHO TOOK EUROPE BY STORM

By Khaled Assem

ABDEL, A VERY TALENTED YOUNGSTER RUNNING AROUND FROM ONE CLASS TO THE OTHER IN CAIRO, ESCORTED BY HIS MOTHER AND MOVING TO HOLLAND, GROOMED BY A VARIETY OF COACHES UNTIL HE LANDS WITH EMILE HENDRIX AND MOVES ON FROM THERE TO A GLORIOUS PROFESSIONAL LIFE THAT INCLUDES GRAND INTERNATIONAL WINS.

1-A DIFFICULT WIN THAT HAS SPECIAL VALUE TO YOU.

I think winning the **World Cup in Verona** was very special for me as it was my first World Cup win especially in the Western European league and on a horse who gives all for me and we produced her in my stable from a *young horse*!

2-HORSES THAT YOU FELT WERE GREAT PARTNERS AND WHY?

Sky high was a very special horse for me because she brought me to my first major results, such as 4th in the CSIO Grand Prix of Dublin, 5th Grand Prix of Gelderland, clear in the World Cup and Grand Prix of Oslo and also placed in the CSIO Grand Prix of Barcelona. *I was only 19* then and she was a trier. She also brought us the Bronze Medal at the Young Horse World Championships in Lanaken.

I also enjoyed my partnership with **Avenir**. He was qualified for the World Championships in Kentucky, 2nd in the 4* Grand Prix of Antwerp and 5th in the Grand Prix of Olympia. He was a very careful and competitive winner! I also remember one of his *fastest jump-offs* when he beat Edwina with Itot du Chateau to win the big class one evening in London Olympia.

Of course I also have to mention **Hope**. She did the most out of all of the horses for me. We won the World

Cup of Verona, King's Cup in Windsor (which enabled me to meet the Queen of England), the World Cup of Abu Dhabi, the Grand Prix of Zandhoven, the Sunday Grand Prix of Monaco, and many more. *I owe her a lot.*

3- WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A HORSE FOR YOUR CAREER?

If I have a choice I like **cooperative horses** that want to win and am competitive. I don't mind blood as well! The brain is most important for me and of course some talent .

4- TRAINERS THAT LEFT A GREAT IMPACT ON YOUR CAREER.

Emile Hendrix

5- WHAT IS YOUR DAILY ROUTINE?

I manage my stable and business which means I have to ride, train, and scout for new horses for our clients and that's what I do mainly every day and night.

6- ARE YOU PREPARING FOR 2020?

Yes for sure!!!

Inshallah, we can get Egypt qualified for the Olympic Games. I think this is a realistic but hard target that all the team is working towards and hopefully we get it done. We have to.



© Sportfot - Eeary Edouard

© Sportfot



7- WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL IN SHOWJUMPING AND WHY?

I have a lot because I feel they all have different qualities!

I respect **Ludger Beerbaum** a lot. His professionalism and that he managed to stay at the top sport for so long! I think *he covers most aspects of a professional show jumper.*

8- IN YOUR OPINION, AT THE TOP LEVEL OF THE SPORT, IS IT MORE ABOUT THE TALENT OR THE PRACTICE?

I think a mix of both. I don't believe one goes without the other. But *practice above talent*, if I have to choose.

9- DO YOU BENEFIT FROM YOUR PEERS IN THE GAME OR DO YOU STILL COACH WITH SOMEONE OR ATTEND CLINICS AT SOME POINT?

Not really, but I speak a lot with my peers and colleagues! **Sameh** and I are good friends and sometimes we discuss things and training together. Also **Cian** is a good friend of mine and sometimes we discuss things

together and analyze rounds. But I am lucky I also have the co- trainers at my stable, **Philippe de Balanda** and **Samuel Hutton**, and they help if I need it.

10- DO YOU HAVE A TEAM WORKING WITH YOU? WHO ARE THEY AND WHAT DO THEY HANDLE? HOW IMPORTANT IS THAT?

The team is very important in my opinion. We have a big team. Behind the scenes and without them I wouldn't be where I am today and, of course, first my parents for the sacrifices they made to support my career. I have Samuel Hutton as our stable rider and assistant trainer, Philippe de Balanda as scout and trainer, and, of course, our grooms and flat riders.

11- AT THE TOP LEVEL , ESPECIALLY WITH SO MANY HORSES, DO YOU STILL KEEP THAT BOND WITH THE HORSES OR DO THE GROOMS SHARE THAT PART IN THE NEW INDUSTRIALIZED SPORT?

I like to keep the bond. I really love and enjoy training and seeing the progress with my horses. Of course, my grooms, especially my main show groom, spend most time with them! 🐾

US\$12 MILLION DUBAI WORLD CUP

THUNDER SNOW BECOMES THE FIRST HORSE IN HISTORY TO LAND TWO CONSECUTIVE WINS

By DRC

“HE IS SUCH A BRAVE HORSE. I WASN’T SURE IF HE WILL WIN, BUT WE HAD THE BEST JOCKEY IN THE WORLD ON BOARD AND HE KNOWS HIM SO WELL. HE HAS WON THE UAE DERBY AND NOW THE DUBAI WORLD CUP TWICE.” _SAEED BIN SUROOR- TRAINER



Thunder Snow overcame a huge amount of difficulty to become the first horse in history to have consecutive wins in the US\$12 million Dubai World Cup sponsored by Emirates Airline (G1).

Christophe Soumillon was in the saddle as he was 12 months ago and the victory capped a superb evening for His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum and the Godolphin team who scooped four of the eight thoroughbred races.

“ Last year I won by five, six, even more lengths, and today Thunder had to fight hard. I really want to say a big thank you to Saeed bin Suroor, and also to HH Sheikh Mohammed, just before the race they said to me in the paddock you should have so much confidence and do everything right. Thanks to Thunder Snow, because without him I would not be able to do such things.”_ Christophe Soumillon, Jockey

The 5-year-old defied the widest stall bar one to score and was providing trainer Saeed bin Suroor with a remarkable ninth win in the Dubai World Cup in a winning time of 2 minutes 3.87 seconds.

\$6,000,000 LONGINES DUBAI SHEEMA CLASSIC

Old Persian proved too powerful in the US\$6 million Longines Dubai Sheema Classic (G1) to present owners Godolphin and potent trainer-jockey combination Charlie Appleby and William Buick with a remarkable treble on the Dubai World Cup card.

A 4-year-old homebred colt by the mighty stallion Dubawi, Old Persian had been considered a major contender beforehand and benefitted from saving ground on the rail behind the pacesetter Japanese-trained Rey De Oro.

As the eight runners swung into the homestretch, Buick was able to point his classy bay mount into clear running and quickly they established a winning break before the final 200m.

The Japanese pair of Cheval Grand and Suave Richard came from off the pace to get within a length and a half and half a length respectively of the winner at the line. The time clocked for the 2410m was the second fastest in the past decade at 2 minutes 27.17 seconds.

Charlie Appleby, Trainer, OLD PERSIAN (1st)—“It has just been a fantastic night, and I’m so pleased for His Highness Sheikh Mohammed and the whole Godolphin team. They went a good sensible gallop and William made a sensible move turning for home to make his gap, allowing himself to get the run he needed. I knew the acceleration was there.”

\$6,000,000 DUBAI TURF SPONSORED BY DP WORLD

She arrived in Dubai with a huge reputation and Japan’s super filly Almond Eye proved herself on a world stage at Meydan when showing brilliant acceleration to win the US\$6 million Dubai Turf sponsored by DP World.

The Lord Kanaloa filly, trained by Sakae Kunieda to win all three legs of the Filly Triple Crown and the Japan Cup at home, was produced with a well-timed run by Christophe Lemaire to land the 1800m Dubai Turf.

The race provided a great result for Japan with compatriot Vivlos a length and a quarter back in second and Deirdre finishing fourth. British trainer David O’Meara saddled Lord Glitters to produce a career-best run to take third.



© DRC - Erika Raemussen

Christophe Lemaire, Jockey, ALMOND EYE (1st)—“She was very impressive. The way she accelerated is unbelievable. Today was her first start of the year, and quite early on she was actually in front of the rest of the field. I think she relaxed a little bit and she had a bit of a margin on them. The distance was a little bit short for her today but she is so good that I had no fear about that.”

\$2,500,000 DUBAI GOLDEN SHAHEEN SPONSORED BY GULF NEWS

X Y Jet was first out of the gate and first home with a powerful front-running performance to capture Saturday’s US\$2.5 million, Group 1 Dubai Golden Shaheen sponsored by Gulf News at Meydan Racecourse.

Trained by Jorge Navarro for owners Rockingham Ranch and Gelfenstein Farm, X Y Jet had finished second twice previously in this event, defeated by a neck in 2016 when collared by Muarrab and by a head last year to Mind Your Biscuits.

Emisael Jaramillo hustled X Y Jet from the gate on Saturday night and immediately took command of the race with Matera Sky, piloted by Yutake Take, applying pressure through an opening 400m in 24.34 seconds.

The 7-year-old Kantharos gelding maintained his advantage into the turn as Matera Sky tried to keep pace with Imperial Hint saving ground in third. As the field straightened away, Matera Sky again took aim at the pacesetter, but X Y Jet found another gear and flew home a length and a half winner. X Y Jet completed 1200m in a final running time of 1:10.75.

Emisael Jaramillo, Jockey, X Y JET (1st)—“I’m very happy. For me, this is so special. I’m very excited. I’ve come back two times and now I’ve won today, it’s very emotional for everyone with the horse. What a horse he is.”

\$2,500,000 UAE DERBY SPONSORED BY THE SAEED AND MOHAMMED AL NABOODAH GROUP

Brendan Walsh, who once spent a decade working on the Godolphin team in Dubai before heading to the USA with hopes of becoming a trainer, saw his long-held dream come true when his first runner in the Dubai, Plus Que Parfait, won the \$2.5 UAE Derby Sponsored by the Saaed & Mohammed Al Naboodah Group (G2).

Under a perfect ride by Jose Ortiz, who won his second race on the Dubai World Cup card in as many tries, Plus Que Parfait earned 100 qualifying points for the Kentucky Derby in May. The son of Point of Entry found racing room in the field of 14 at the top of the straight and after the rider switched him to the inside; he accelerated between Gray Magician and Manguzi and dug in to prevail by three-quarters of a length.

Plus Que Parfait, which means more than perfect in French, covered the 1900m on a fast track in 1:58.41. He boosted his lifetime earnings to US \$1,949,800 with his share of the purse and the Imperial Racing LLC’s colorbearer now has a record of 7 2-1-2.

Brendan Walsh, Trainer, PLUE QUE PARFAIT (1st)—“This is huge - Jose gave him such a great ride and what a night for him with two winners. This has been the plan for quite a while and his owners are based out here. We said if things didn’t work out to get to the Kentucky Derby then we would come here. He had a bad day the last time he ran but we didn’t hold it against him and it has worked out. Brilliant.”

\$2,000,000 AL QUOZ SPRINT SPONSORED BY AZIZI DEVELOPMENTS

Blue Point stamped his claim to being the best sprinter on the planet when he stormed to victory in the 1200m Al Quoz Sprint sponsored by Azizi Developments (G1).



© DRC - Neville Hopwood

Blue Point stopped the clock in 1.08.39, only narrowly sitting outside the mark set by last year’s Al Quoz Sprint winner Jungle Cat when taking the Nad Al Sheba Turf Sprint last March. In doing so, he provided a second success on the card for trainer Charlie Appleby, jockey William Buick and owners Godolphin, coming hot on the heels of Melbourne Cup winner Cross Counter’s triumphant return in the Dubai Gold Cup sponsored by Al Tayer Motors (G2).

This was Blue Point’s second Group 1 victory, adding to his win in the 1000m King’s Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot last June, and it hardly looked in doubt as he cantered up towards the leaders at the 300m. Once Buick shook the reins, it took only a handful of strides before he had the pacesetters in his sights.

Charlie Appleby, Trainer, BLUE POINT (1st)—“You have got a combination here of William and the horse. They thrive off each other. William knows him inside out. I knew from the body language, as much as you never get confident too soon, but I felt that William had pretty much everything covered there. I’m delighted. I have always been very fond of him, ever since his 2-year-old days and he’s doing what we always hoped he would do one day and that is to become a finished article in the top sprinting division.”

\$1,500,000 DUBAI GOLD CUP SPONSORED BY AL TAYER MOTORS

Cross Counter successfully bridged the gap between Australia and the UAE with a brilliant

victory for jockey William Buick over Isopolini – like the winner a 4-year-old owned by Godolphin and trained by Charlie Appleby – in the Dubai Gold Cup sponsored by Al Tayer Motors (G2), run over 3200m and with a purse of \$1.5m.

Winner of the Melbourne Cup last November, Cross

Counter defied the lengthy lay-off, showing great courage as the two stablemates drew clear of their eight rivals from 500m out. Ispolini surrendered the lead 250m from the finish, where Cross Counter forged ahead to gain victory by one and a quarter lengths in a time of 3min 19secs, the third-best in 11-year history of the race.

Cross Counter, who gave both his trainer and jockey their first successes in the race, was taking his career record to six wins and two second placings from nine races.

French-trained Call The Wind stayed on over the last 500m to be third, three lengths off the first two and four lengths ahead of Gold Mount, Hong Kong’s first runner in the race.

Charlie Appleby, Trainer, CROSS COUNTER (1st)—“It was his first opportunity to run since Melbourne and he answered all the questions. William was put in a bit of a pocket in the race but you’re actually never too worried when you’re working with the nice horses and good jockeys we have.”

\$1,500,000 GODOLPHIN MILE SPONSORED BY MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM CITY

Over 1600m on the Meydan dirt surface, the \$1.5 million Group 2 Godolphin Mile sponsored by Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum City-District One produced a thrilling finish with Heavy Metal looking set to defend his title only to be caught in the dying strides by Coal Front.

Trained by Todd Pletcher for Robert La Penta & Heads Of Plains Partners, the 5-year-old ridgling was drawn wide in 12 and not able to get to the front under Jose Ortiz, who had hoped to do so, but forced to track Heavy Metal, Muntazah and Good Curry.



© DRC - Erika Rasmussen

The last named was the first to crack with Muntazah looming large alongside Heavy Metal at the top of the straight before weakening with 300m to run.

That left Heavy Metal clear with a seemingly insurmountable advantage but Ortiz had a willing partner who finished off his race in style to put his head in front where it mattered.

The winning verdict was three parts of a length with Ortiz making his first UAE mount a winning one as well as supplying Pletcher his maiden local success with his 17th runner.

Jose Ortiz, Jockey, COAL FRONT (1st) — “The emotion right here is for my family back home and I just want to say that I love them all. The horse felt great for me and he broke well, which was important. I wanted to be on or near to the lead and it worked out perfectly. I knew I had to be patient to time my run for home. I had two horses in front of me which gave me a great lead, and I just sat and watched Jim Crowley and Muntazah as he is the main man around here. I followed him and my horse dug in for me late on and he has done it well.”

\$1,000,000 DUBAI KAHAYLA CLASSIC SPONSORED BY MUBADALA

The 2019 edition of the US\$ 1 million Dubai Kahayla Classic sponsored by Mubadala will go down as one of the most thrilling in the history of the Group 1 PA race. Neck to neck the locally trained AF Maher and the Polish raider Fazza Al Khalediah battled it to the line of the 2000m race that is run on dirt. With 300m to go, AF Maher lost his advantage that he had held since the gates opened, but he fought back and slowly but surely got his head in front once more to pass the winning post

as the new victor of this Purebred Arabian classic.

“You need courage and that is what he has,” said his jubilant jockey Tadhg O’Shea, who had had the choice between the 6-year-old son of AF Al Buraq and AF Raad and the other Ernst Oertel-trained runner AF Al Sajanjle. Only a few hours before the race, he said he was hoping to have made the right choice after AF Maher had impressively disposed of Ziyadd in his prep race, which statistically has not been the greatest pointer towards the Kahayla Classic.

“Statistics and records are there to be broken,” he continued. “I have had great belief in this horse and already told Ernst (Oertel) a long time ago that I thought he was very good. He was still very unexposed and it was always the plan to take him to the front and set the pace. It’s been ten years since I won this race on the mighty Mizzna and it’s just absolutely amazing to win it again.”

Owned by Khalid Khalifa Al Nabooda, AF Maher offered Ernst Oertel his first victory in this race and the trainer said: “This is what Arabians do. They battle. I’m so happy and I’m lost for words. I am just so proud.”

With such a strong pace from the start, last year’s winner Tallaab Al Khalediah was not able to dictate the pace from draw number 12. He travelled on the outside and when AF Maher and Fazza Al Khalediah quickened coming out of the bend, he was quickly outpaced. In the end, it was Goshawke who finished ten and a quarter lengths behind the leading pair in third, while Tallaab Al Khalediah had to accept the first defeat in his career and finished fourth. 



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EL-GOUNA BEACH POLO SILVER CUP 2019

IMPRINTING EGYPTIAN POLO ON THE WORLD MAP

By Menna Loutfy

THE TOURNAMENT OF EXCEPTIONAL POLO FEATURED SEVEN MATCHES OVER THE FOUR-DAY PERIOD FROM 24 TO 27 APRIL; WITH FOUR TEAMS COMPRISING LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS IN THE INCREDIBLE OUTDOOR POLO FACILITY IN EL-GOUNA AND THE AMAZING VIEW OF THE RED SEA IN THE BACKGROUND.



Photos courtesy of Cairo Zoom and Haitham Farouk.



Farouk Youness and Patrick Hermès



Celebrity actress Shereen Reda



Farouk Youness and Patrick Hermès during the exclusive reception at La Maison Bleu



Game play - Kings Polo and Mangroovy



Team Mangroovy - Winners



Young students of Kings Polo Academy.

The third edition of Kings Polo Silver cup attracted about 1,000 VIP guests and 1,800 members of the public. One of the very exquisite highlights of this year's edition is the attendance of French sports entrepreneur and polo legend **Patrick Guerrand-Hermès**, the Honorary President of the International Polo Federation and the former chairman of Hermès

*"I've been in charge of world polo and here I encounter beautiful horses and good players. The teams are of a very good level. It's probably one of the best outdoor polo that I've ever seen. The president and founder **Mohamed El-Sewedy** has really done a tremendous job!"*

Patrick Hermès performed some kickoffs during the tournament.

"My very favorite moment in Polo is always the start; when the first ball moves now we know it's on and there's going to be a great show ahead"

He wouldn't have had better company during the tournament than **Farouk Youness**; the former president

of the Egyptian Polo Federation who everyone calls uncle Farouk around the Polo Family, and who is also known as the god father of polo in Egypt.

"An event like this is highly important to the future of polo in Egypt. As you can see there are teams of young players of 7,8,10 and 12 years old. In addition to the participation of women and men; all coming to this world class event." _Farouk said

And because Polo is sport of kings, royalty was another highlight to the tournament, with the presence of her Royal Highness **Princess Kholoud Ben Saud** of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Celebrities of the Polo family like **Hussein Fahmy**, **Shereen Reda** and **Tamer Habib** where also one of the stars shining among the audience.

The first day was the opening of the tournament and at night the polo family and friends gathered on a sizzling BBQ dinner and spent a beautiful night at Mangroovy beach bar.

The second day started with a polo match that carried a lot of excitement and thrill to all the audience. Later at night it was time to suit up for the exclusive reception at **La Maison Bleu**, ElGouna that saw the signing of a partnership between Mangroovy Residence - El Gouna and Campbell Gray Hotels.

On that night the tournament's players were honored, with the pleasure of Patrick Hermès sharing his thoughts about the sport in Egypt

"What's very important is the young starting; who will be the champions of tomorrow. There's a school in Cairo called Kings Polo Academy for the young; that is very well established and I consider this is as a very important step. I really wish I had more of these while I was president. But I am very glad to be here, I love Egypt and this is a great experience."

Day three started with an amazing polo parade in the Marina featuring the championship players and horses with the crowds gathering to enjoy that joyful vibe. At 3 pm the game play started which was quiet a thrill seeing

teams Kings Polo and Mangroovy proceeding to the final round for a glorious clash of kings.

On the final day **Mangroovy team** won the first place, followed by Kings Polo team in second, Afreximbank team in third, and Mercedes-Benz in fourth.

After the winners were named, everyone gathered for an unforgettable night of celebration with performances of world-class entertainers, Tyga, Inna and Nelly. 🎉



THE GOLDEN AGE OF SHOWJUMPING

CAROLINE BRADLEY AND MILTON

By Frank Waters



HERE IS A WONDERFUL PHOTOGRAPH OF THE GREAT CAROLINE BRADLEY RIDING MILTON. SHE BROUGHT THIS HORSE OUT AS A NOVICE BEFORE SHE TRAGICALLY DIED. GONE TOO SOON, CAROLINE, YOU WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN, NOT AS LONG AS I AM AROUND. I WAS SO LUCKY TO HAVE KNOWN YOU AND CALLED YOU A FRIEND.

Caroline rode a great stallion called **Marius** which was the sire of Milton. She knew when he was a baby that Milton would be one of the greatest of all time, and he was, becoming the first show jumper to win a **million pounds** with John Whitaker. Foaled in 1977, Milton was by Dutch Warmblood Marius, out of Irish Draught Aston Answers. His lines included successful sports horses in both paternal and maternal lines, his sire being an international level and his dam a Grade A national level jumper.

When Milton was young, Caroline Bradley told her parents he would be her Olympic mount. She trained him until her death in **1983**, after which many offers were made to her parents to buy the gelding, which had already proven his talent, they kept the horse.

Stephen Hadley, known later as a FEI TV show jumping commentator, rode Milton for a short time, before he became a mount of the world-renowned international rider **John Whitaker**. Milton entered international competition in 1985. During his competitive career, Milton achieved many international victories, and became the first horse outside the racing world to win more than £1 million in prize money.

Throughout his career, Milton rarely touched a rail or refused a fence. The gelding was a favorite with the crowd, many times ending a successful round with a leap into the air. Even after his retirement at the **1994 Olympia Horse Show**, he was adored by all. Milton died on 4 July 1999. He was buried on the **Whitaker's farm** in Yorkshire, a farm I used to visit often to spend time with the Whitaker's in the 70's. 🐾



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NAYEL NASSAR

OLYMPIC HOPES AND DREAMS

PART 2

By Khaled Assem

DURING MY MEETING WITH NAYEL ONE YEAR AHEAD OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES AND MONTHS BEFORE THE QUALIFICATIONS, I WAS EAGER TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HIS VISION OF HIMSELF AND THE EGYPTIAN NATIONAL TEAM FOR TOKYO 2020.



© Mahmoud Ayad



© Ashley Neuhof

Nowadays with the string of horses that I have and with the extra exposure to bigger shows I feel I am ready for that challenge. We have a very good chance with the present team to qualify and look forward to good results.

The team - those riders are well recognized on the **global scene with big wins** - we are just ready to put it all forward for such a goal and for Egypt.

We need to be based in the same place, jump a couple of Nations Cups together, *get some team spirit going!*

DO YOU SEE A TEAM THAT IS READY TO CARRY THAT OLYMPIC CHALLENGE FORWARD?

Yes, I definitely do!

Between Karim El-Zoghby, Sameh El-Dahan, Abdelkader Said, myself and Mohamed Taher Ziada who did very well at the World Championships in Tyron 2018.

Getting comfortable at that level, we certainly have much **more experience and horse power** than we did in prior years; we're all young with further growing experience at the top level.

We are just a lot more equipped to focus on team championships and bigger goals than personal goals.



© Ashley Neuhof

AS AN EGYPTIAN RIDING UNDER THE EGYPTIAN FLAG EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR FROM THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE EQUESTRIAN SPORT IN EGYPT, THE EGYPTIAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, ESPECIALLY WITH THE OLYMPIC GAMES HAPPENING NEXT YEAR?

With the **Olympic qualifier** coming up we are looking forward to having a strong team. We are willing to put our best horses forward and what we need is a plan; when we are needed? Where we are needed? and *we'll be there!*

I will bring my horses where the team needs me. I was based in California; I had only one horse that was the main source of my business. Now I have more flexibility; I have more horses in Europe and if **the Federation** requires our participation anywhere, that will be affordable and easily doable for me.

We are looking for early communication to come together to have more chances to succeed. I am more opt to serve this goal. *I am always keen to be on the team* and now I am much more prepared for that.

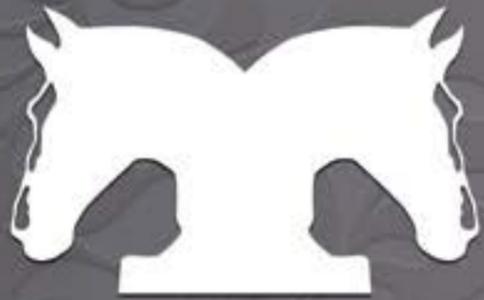


© Ashley Neuhof



Nayel, his mother Iman Harby and Khaled Assem

© Mahmoud Ayad



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THE ART OF CLASSICAL DRESSAGE RIDING

HOW CAN I COMPETE IN DRESSAGE?

By Emmad Eldin Zaghloul

THINK OF DRESSAGE COMPETITIONS AS A “TANGO” DANCE COMPETITION. IMAGINE ONLY ONE INTEGRATED COUPLE ON THE STAGE SHOWING OFF THEIR SKILLS, TWO PARTNERS DOING THEIR BEST WITH PASSION TO IMPRESS JUDGES AND THE AUDIENCE. COMPETING IN DRESSAGE IS EXACTLY THE SAME, THE TEAM IS YOU AND YOUR HORSE IN A CERTAIN AREA CALLED DRESSAGE ARENA ACHIEVING CERTAIN MOVEMENTS IN ORDER, THE ARENA SURROUNDED BY A CREW OF JUDGES AMONG DIFFERENT LEVELS OF SPECTATORS AND BOTH OF YOU AND YOUR HORSE HAVE TO IMPRESS THEM ALL.



© Sportfotos - Stefan Laifrentz

Next step is developing your **“Equitation”**, the way you use your natural aids (**hands, legs, seat and voice**), and the different artificial aids (**whip, spurs, etc.**)

You have to understand that good contact with your horse is not all about good hands but also good legs, good seat and mainly good mind.

Next step is all about your knowledge and understanding of the horse gaits (**walk, trot, canter**) and different types of each and how to achieve transitions between each pace and the others and between each type and other types, as well as the other movements of the horse, like rein back, pirouette and lateral movements, etc.

Teach your horse in the dressage arena, at least once weekly to adjust your riding, straight lines, diagonals, curved lines, different sizes of circles, etc. That will push you to plan your riding and follow weekly and monthly training plans.

Plans must be according to the training scale of Dressage or **“The pyramid of training”**: Rhythm, Relaxation, Connection, Impulsion, and Straightness and, at the top, Collection.

Last step is improving your riding and your horse’s skills by using trotting poles, gymnastic jumping, and riding in different arenas and then you are ready to execute simple Dressage tests.

Remember, every time you ride, you are dancing the **“TANGO”** with your sweet Lovely equine partner. 🐾

NOW IMAGINE FURTHER, CAN YOU DANCE WITH YOUR HORSE?

First of all we have to talk about your relation with your horse. You have to know that your horse is not a tool, a machine or a piece of equipment. Your horse is not only your friend but also your partner, you have to love your horse, spending enough time with him, not only riding and training but also talking to him, playing together when he is free in the paddock, brushing and petting him. You have to know why sometimes horses are very calm and sweet with their grooms and the opposite with their riders.

Next point to discuss is riding in the correct position, which I can summarize in two main points. First of all is a straight vertical line passing through the rider’s ear, shoulder, elbow, seat ending at the heel perpendicular to the ground. Second is a straight sloping line starting from the rider’s elbow to the arm, hand, straight with the reins ending at the bit in the horse’s mouth. Remember this, if you want to control your horse, then you must control your body.



© Liz Gregg



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AHMED TALAAT

THE MAN *WITH THE* JOKER TATTOO

By Menna Loutfy

HE'S A RENOWNED 36 YEAR-OLD EGYPTIAN INTERNATIONAL COURSE DESIGNER WHO RECENTLY APPEARED ON SCREEN AS A MONK IN THE EGYPTIAN TV SERIES "ZODIAC" WITH A TALENT IN ACTING ALONGSIDE HIS DAY JOB AS AN ARCHITECT. WHAT A COMBINATION !

IN AN HT EXCLUSIVE, AHMED TALAAT TELLS US WHAT MAKES HIM TICK.

TO START WITH: COURSE DESIGNING?!

“When I was younger I did not play video games like most of the guys my age! I used to design courses. I call it my treasure, I have a huge number of courses I designed in arenas that I’ve never seen or been to. I used to download them from the internet and design a speed class, two rounds, more and more. I didn’t even feel the hours passing while I did that because that was what I really enjoyed doing and I was really passionate about.”

Talaat started riding at a young age and was coached by **Sherif EI-Demerdash** to whom he feels very grateful.

“I knew that I was not very fit to ride in top sport but I always loved to help with building the course. One day I was on a trip with General Ahmed EI-Sawaf and that day he told me to either lose weight or stop riding; then he asked, why don’t you become a course designer? “

The question triggered that passion in Talaat’s heart and mind. They sat together and General Ahmed told him more about course designing then he contacted Egyptian course designer **General Atef EI-Attar** who took it from there. But something unexpected happened on his first day as an assistant course designer in **EI-Basateen** during the National Championships.

“On my very first day as I entered the arena very eager to start my new path, Dr. Atef said to me, ‘Are you coming to work with these shorts?! Leave the arena now!’ I did not see that coming but I left. I went home, changed, and returned back.”

“At that time and that exact place in EI-Basateen, Egypt. That was the right way to look and I learnt to respect that.”

Then a great opportunity appeared when the Egyptian Equestrian Federation cooperated with international course designer **Rob Jansen** to design courses in the national shows for a full season. Talaat thought it would be great to learn from him and so he did. He contacted the Federation which agreed to help and he assisted Rob all season.

Later Rob asked him to assist him in international shows where his experience expanded. From Rob to **Olaf Petersen** who is also a big name in course designing, Talaat worked with them for a year and a half in and out of Egypt.

*“My god father in course designing was **Werner Deeg**; he truly affected my career. A few years back when I was working in Sunshine Tour with him, he called me and said you will design the six bars*



Talaat with Karim Badaro and Aly El-Sharif



Mohamed Hefzy, Tarek Nadim and Talaat

competition!”

Talaat felt very excited about that because the level of riders in the six bars competition is almost the same as the Grand Prix.

“That day as I walked into the VIP Lounge with Warner, someone asked him about me and said, “How’s your assistant, the Egyptian cowboy?” His answer caught me by surprise and I still remember his exact words that brought me sheer happiness and motivation.

He simply answered,

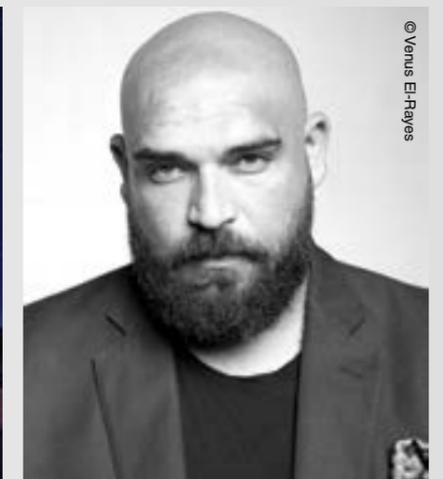
“He’s not my assistant anymore! He’s a colleague,” and continued, “ I promise you in 10 years from



Talaat and Egyptian celebrity actress Nelly Karim



Zodiac Series poster



© Venus El-Rayes

now when we’re both too old and we see him taking someone aside to talk about something; we will go listen because I know that he will probably say something new about the sport. Remember his name.”

STARRING ZODIAC SERIES

“I had the passion for acting since school. I used to act in school plays; then I enrolled in the Faculty of Engineering, Cairo University in 2003. I continued acting in University Theater but it was very difficult to do both in parallel so I had to drop acting.”

15 years later, during a chat between Talaat and his best friend Mohamed Hefzy _the award winning Egyptian screenwriter and renown producer who

recently became a member of the Academy Awards Board _ who’s also familiar with Talaat’s talent and passion advised him to get back to acting.

“Despite my hectic life between engineering, course designing and social responsibilities, I decided to give it a try because I was longing to feed that passion. I enrolled in an acting workshop that was a whole new level for me. I truly discovered the magic of acting!

*I’ve had so many jobs; acting is the most difficult one. The pleasure in it is that there’s no shame, you can go all the way with no shame, and it’s not you. But at the same time **it’s also you!** “*

AND YOU'RE STILL AN ENGINEER

"Yes, I am still working as an architect. It all started in 2008 when I worked with Dr. Tarek Nadim. He's my godfather and role model. I was lucky to have gotten all the work experience and even life experience through working with him and his family.

This man considers me as a son and he even encourages me to follow my acting passion. He's giving me time. "

HOW DO YOU SEE SUCCESS?

The secret of success lies in your willingness to succeed. How keen are you to achieve your dream? How much effort, time and energy are you willing to exert ?

Sometimes I spend 16 continuous hours of shooting and I do it with love; same applies to course designing and engineering.



It's all about **what you're willing to** give in order to succeed.

I usually don't feel like I am going to work because I am going to enjoy my time.

Simply when you reach that point; **I promise you will make it happen.**

WHY THE JOKER TATTOO?

"Do I really look like a guy with a plan? You know who I am? I am the dog chasing cars I wouldn't know what to do with one if I caught it! I just do things!"
"The Joker in Batman Returns"

"That's exactly every one of us. How many times do you fall in love with someone and you know that this is the wrong person but you just do it because you simply want to?. We all go through the experience and we know there's a big chance that it won't work out, but we just do it and we just live the moment and enjoy it without having to worry about what's lying ahead..."

*Every one of us is a joker with a **different motive.**"* 



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POLO

MOHAMED VI INTERNATIONAL POLO CUP

By Dr. Mohamed El Shamy, President of the Egyptian Polo Federation

AFTER THE EGYPTIAN POLO FEDERATION RECEIVED THE KIND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MOHAMED VI INTERNATIONAL POLO CUP (6-GOAL HANDICAP), ORGANIZED BY THE ROYAL GUARDS OF MOROCCO AND THE MOROCCAN POLO ACADEMY DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2019, THE DECISION WAS MADE UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE INVITATION AND ITS TERMS. AND WHAT A WONDERFUL NINE DAYS OF POLO WE EXPERIENCED!



Selection of the team based on the handicap was then determined by the organizing committee. After thorough discussion and evaluation, the **Egyptian delegation** was as follows:

HEAD OF THE DELEGATION: *Dr. Mohamed El Shamy*

PLAYERS: *Mohamed El Sewedy*

Mohamed Rashad

Mohamed Bassiouny

Marwan Mostafa

Omar El Sewedy



General Mansoury welcoming Dr. Mohamed El Shamy.



Prince Molay Rachid with the delegations.

DAY ONE

The 8th of June, witnessed the arrival of the **Egyptian team** to Casablanca airport. The team was well received by the Royal Guards officials and drove directly to the city of Rabat. After settling down at the hotel, the team had the rest of the day to relax from the trip and to unwind.

DAY TWO

The 9th of June, started with an official ceremony at the **Souissi Polo Club** for the selection of the horses for each team. The rest of the day was free time and the team decided to go to the city of Fez for some sightseeing. The visit to the old city in Fez was the highlight of the day.

DAY THREE

The 10th of June, brought the official opening ceremony of the Cup and the first match between Team Morocco A and Team Nigeria. After the match, group B Team (Morocco B, Egypt, Portugal) drove up to the city of Tangier where the first matches of group B would be held.

DAY FOUR

The 11th of June, in the morning the Egyptian team went to Hourra Polo Club to try their horses for the first time, then back to the hotel to have some down time before their first match in the afternoon at 5 pm against Team Morocco B. The match was fast and competitive, but the Moroccan team came out as the winners.

DAY FIVE

The 12th of June, in the morning the team had a nice time touring the city of Tangier and in the afternoon it was polo time again as Team Portugal took the field against Morocco B and took the spectators by storm winning their first match. After the match we all drove down to the city of Assilah to the luxury polo oasis, **La Palmeraie Polo Club**, thanks to the owner and creator of such a magical polo destination, Mr. **Patrick Guerrand Hermes**, ex-president of the International Polo Federation. We were all invited by Mr. Hermes for a nice casual dinner at his beautiful Moroccan tent.

DAY SIX

The 13th of June, the morning was a relaxing time at the

beach for all of us as we were joined by group a teams from Rabat. In the afternoon, it was time for the Egyptians to take the field against Team Portugal that brought their highest rated player among their roster. The Egyptian team had to fight hard against such a strong team and unfortunately lost their second match as well. At night, it was time for our formal dinner hosted by Mr. Hermes at his place which showcased some live authentic folklore by Moroccan musicians and dancers.

DAY SEVEN

The 14th of June, it was time for our third and last match against Team Nigeria and by all means it was the best match of the Cup, as both teams had **no pressure to win**, but to put in a **good performance**. The day belonged to the Nigerian team as they came out winners of their last match. After the match we were all treated to a very elegant lunch at Hourra Polo Club before heading back to Rabat for the final day of the Cup.

DAY EIGHT

The 15th of June, in the morning we attended the match between Team Morocco B and Team France to decide third place. Team France played a very good match, however they lost to Team Morocco B. After the match it was time for the team to trade gifts with the Royal Guards Officials headed by **General Maymoun Mansoury** who is also the president of the **Royal Moroccan Polo Academy**. There was a special gift to King Mohamed VI that was handed to the officials of the Cup.

In the afternoon it was time for the final match of the Cup between Team Morocco A and Team Portugal at the Souissi Polo Club. That afternoon was graced by the presence of the **King's brother Prince Molay Rachid who handed out the Cup to the winning Team Morocco A** after a convincing win against Team Portugal. That night we all gathered at the hotel for a farewell dinner party given by the host country and we all traded memories and ideas about the future of our beloved sport Polo.

DAY NINE

The 16th of June, it was time for the Egyptian team to go home with lots of good memories and a very special experience. 🇪🇬



General Mansoury is introduced to the Egyptian team.



Mr. Jose Gara of Portugal, Mr. Patric Hermes of France, and Dr. Mohamed El Shamy at the Souissi Club



At the first match Egypt vs. Morocco B, General Mansoury, Mr. Patrick Hermes, and Mr. Farouk Younis



THE DUTCH EQUESTRIAN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM – PART 1

TAKE A LOOK OVERSEAS

By Carlijn Pontenagel

THE DUTCH EQUESTRIAN SPORT IS KNOWN FOR ITS EXPERTISE. DUTCH RIDERS, CARRIAGE DRIVERS, BREEDERS, TRAINERS, AND HORSES ARE DOMINATING THE WORLD STAGE. OVER THE YEARS, THE DUTCH HAVE GAINED THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE IN TRAINING, VETERINARY CARE, NUTRITION, BREEDING, AND EQUESTRIAN MANAGEMENT TO PERFORM SUCCESSFULLY AT WORLD-CLASS LEVEL.

BUT THE QUESTION IS; HOW DID THEY GET WHERE THEY ARE RIGHT NOW? AND HOW DO YOU BECOME A (BETTER) RIDER, TRAINER, GROOM, VETERINARIAN, FARRIER OR OTHER HORSE PERSON?

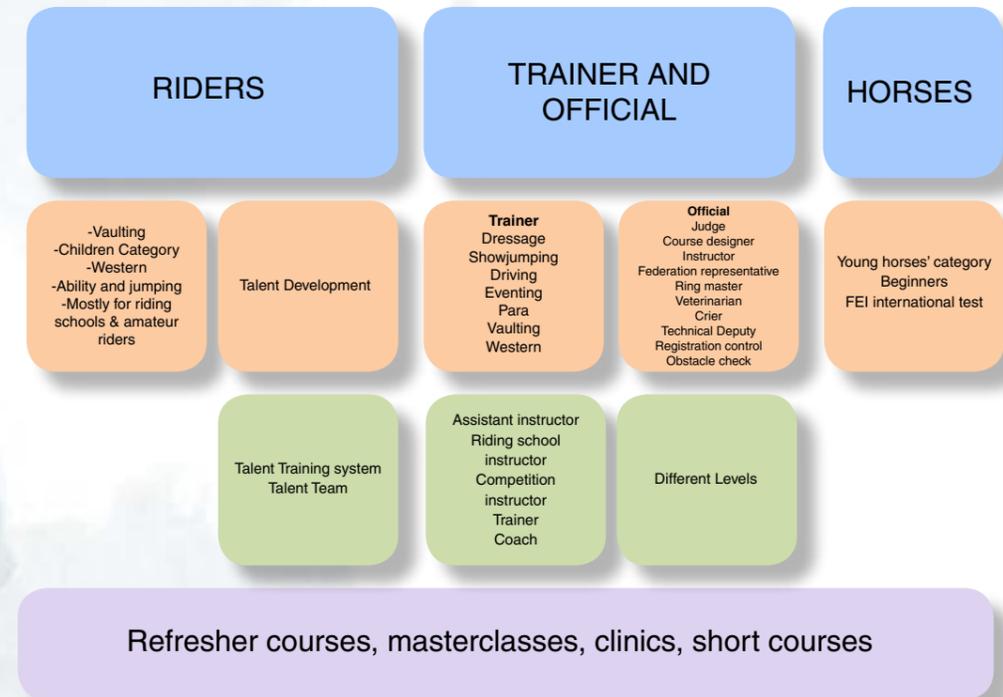
There are tons of ways to gain more knowledge, skills and competences, as long as you have the right attitude and intrinsic motivation.

Riders, for example, take lessons from professionals. Trainers follow courses at the federation. Farriers go to vocational education for 2 years. And ambitious non-professional riders follow a training program, read magazines, or help each other.

Like in any other job, dealing with horses requires skills, knowledge, and the right attitude. If, for example, your intentions and skills are good when putting on a sweat rug after riding in summer, you still miss the knowledge that this is the opposite of what you need to do.

By allowing yourself to learn, you will improve and develop your knowledge and skills in the equestrian world.

In the Netherlands, there are various educational programs where you are able to follow to start a career in the equestrian sector. Get interested and perhaps your equestrian career starts in the Netherlands!



FEDERATION TRAINING MODULES

The KNHS

The Royal Dutch Equestrian Sport Federation was founded in 2002 through a fusion of the three original federations, which can be traced back before the Second World War. The current federation exists of national, regional, and county committees representing wishes and objectives from several levels and providing a link between riders and the head office of the KNHS.

The KNHS wants to make the equestrian sports accessible for all 1.2 million Dutch equestrian followers in a pleasant and responsible manner. As to the diversity of disciplines and involvement in the

equestrian sport, the KNHS confirms itself to be open, respectful, involved and professional towards every person interested in horse sports.

Therefore, they offer a wide range of training modules and courses in different disciplines and expertise at approved centers throughout the Netherlands, including everything from educating horses, first aid, qualified trainer, master classes to riding tests for novice riders.

Whether you are looking for a career as a trainer or working towards a higher level in your riding, KNHS offers it.

Below you find a schematic schedule of the education offered by the KNHS.

FACTS AND FIGURES OF THE NETHERLANDS

1.2 Million equestrian followers.

400.000 active riders.

450.000 horses.

200.000 federated members, of which 135.000 with more than one horse.

10.000 sports stables.

3000 riding schools and clubs.

7500 competitions per year, with 765.000 people attending.

3.825 big international competitions per year, over 79 countries.

17 million trail riders per year.

80% of all is women.

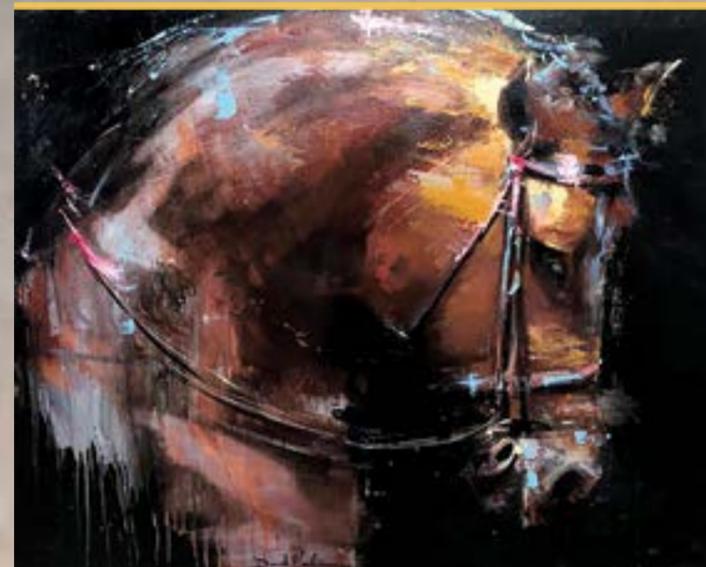
DAVID NOALIA

EQUESTRIAN PAINTING WITH SPANISH POWER AND PASSION

FIRST SOLO EXHIBITION AT OSBORNE STUDIO GALLERY

By Theo Woodham Smith

DAVID NOALIA'S FIRST SOLO SHOW IN LONDON COINCIDED WITH ROYAL ASCOT, HIGHLIGHT OF THE BRITISH FLAT RACING SEASON, 18TH TO 22ND JUNE. THE SPANISH ARTIST DAVID NOALIA'S FAVOURITE SUBJECT IS THE ANDALUSIAN HORSE, ALSO KNOWN AS THE PURE BREED SPANISH HORSE, WHERE ITS ANCESTORS HAVE LIVED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.



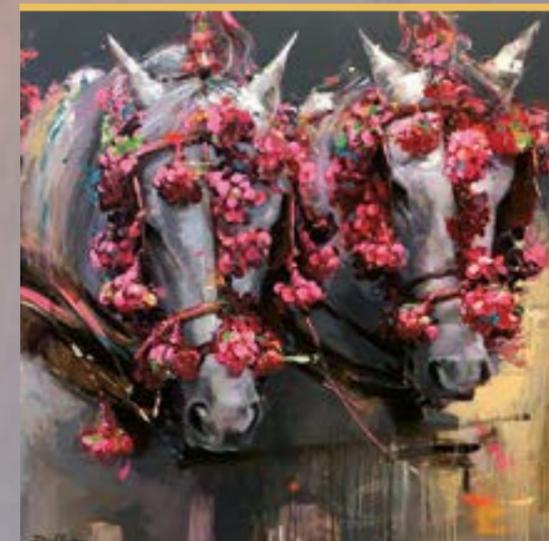
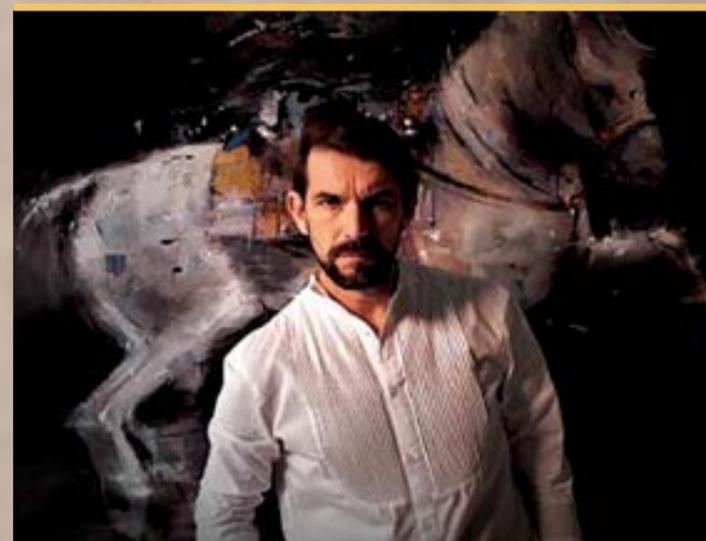
David Noalia, lives and works in Seville, the capital of Andalucia, the city of his dreams and source of his inspiration. **Seville** is famous for flamenco, Moorish architecture, and paintings by Velazquez and Murillo.

David Noalia returns to a favourite subject – the Andalusian Horse, also known as the **Pure Spanish Horse**. This breed belongs to the Iberian peninsula, where its ancestors have lived for thousands of years. He describes this subject as “**essential**, as it allows me to reach any person or culture. It is a universal theme, and I am passionate about movement, elegance and power.”

He sold his first paintings to a dealer aged seventeen, who commissioned eight more pieces. This was the defining moment; he discovered he could make a living from art.

The list of first prizes in his CV is phenomenal, far too long to list here, **fourteen first prizes** in art competitions throughout Spain from 1996 to 2015, exhibitions in Madrid, Paris, Mallorca, and Marbella. He describes his greatest influences as “the brushstrokes of Velazquez, the light and colour of Sorolla, and the bravery of Gerhard Richter.”

The freshness and energy of his painting attracts collectors from the UK, Europe, US, and the Middle East. 



FACT BOX

Artist: David Noalia

Dates: June 17th – July 4th

Location: Osborne Studio Gallery

2 Motcomb St, Belgravia

London

SW1X 8JU

Entry: Free admission to the gallery

Website: www.osg.uk.com



DUTCH MASTERS DEN BOSCH

THE INTERNATIONAL EQUINE LAW CONGRESS 2019

By P.M. Wawrzyniak

IN THIS EDITION OF HORSE TIMES, WE WOULD LIKE TO LOOK BACK ON THE INTERNATIONAL EQUINE LAW CONGRESS ORGANIZED BY THE EUROPEAN US ASIAN EQUINE LAWYERS (THE "EUAEI") DURING THE ROLEX GRAND SLAM - THE DUTCH MASTERS – INDOOR BRABANT HORSE SHOW IN DEN BOSCH IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR.



The EUAEL is an international alliance of law firms active in the field of equine business and equine law from all over the world. For the first time in its history the EUAEL organized an international equine law congress (with a public part). More than 140 participants (veterinarians, lawyers and people from the business) from various parts of the world enrolled for the congress. The main topic of the congress was the question: “Does your horse survive a pre-purchase examination?”.

Luc Schelstraete, the managing partner of Schelstraete Equine Lawyers in The Netherlands and the President of the EUAEL and Dirk Willem Rosie (the editor in chief of De Paardenkrant and www.horses.nl) moderated the congress and the discussion.

International horse deals

Piotr Wawrzyniak of Schelstraete Equine Lawyers focused on tricks of the trade when contracting in the equine business. It goes without saying that the equine business is truly international: competent court, applicable law and limitation of liability are important elements of any contract and are often overlooked. FEI protocols for blood sampling were discussed too. The doping test was discussed as a condition to the contract in two possible variants either as a condition precedent or a condition subsequent. Which to choose depends, of course, on the contract to be drafted. It remains rather exceptional in the equine business that these matters are correctly arranged in writing.

Dr. Burkart Fischer of Berner, Fischer und Partner in Verden, Germany discussed the commissionaire’s position and commissions under German law as well as recent case law. According to this case, a very well-known trainer from Scandinavia was held liable for the

entire purchase price of almost EUR 2.000.000,-. The reason for this was that he was serving two masters (both the seller and the buyer) without disclosing such to the buyer (the family of his trainee).

VAT is a hot topic

Rudolf Kaarsemaker of TAXetera, a tax lawyer in the Netherlands associated with Schelstraete Equine Lawyers, discussed the VAT issues. The VAT remains a difficult matter and in the daily practice in The Netherlands and in Belgium. Structuring the equestrian business through The Netherlands can be very beneficial for foreign riders, investors and owners and can lead to significant savings.

Non-conformity and (a lack of) horsemanship

Luc Schelstraete talked about the non-conformity in horse deals, the lack of horsemanship (as a frequent reason for that) and the growing number of litigation cases under consumer protection in which animals are treated as consumer goods. It was well noted that there are hardly ever cases involving professional riders regarding non-conformity. In other words, a correlation can be observed between the notion of non-conformity and a lack of horsemanship.

Cross-border litigation

The following block of presentations covered cross border litigation in the horse business. Agnieszka Kalinowska and Anita Garnuszek of Lex Hippica, from Warsaw, Poland, zoomed in on international private law issues from the EU perspective focusing on the Regulation (EC) No 593/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 on the law applicable to contractual obligations (Rome I) and

the Regulation (EU) No 1215/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2012 on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters (the Brussels I recast).

Dr. Monika Gattiker of Lanter Rechtsanwälte from Zürich, Switzerland discussed the Swiss approach of international private law based on the Lugano Convention as well as material law in Switzerland regarding the sale and purchase of animals that is entirely different than the laws of the EU Member States. For instance, with regard to the sale of animals, Swiss law clearly stipulates that there is no warranty unless the seller explicitly gives such in writing and that the notice of any defects is limited to nine (9) days after the hand-over.

Vincent Zitman of Schelstraete Equine Lawyers discussed the recognition and enforcement of foreign judgments (from outside the EU) within the EU and The Netherlands. He explained the technicalities of this process and outlined ways to defend in case a Dutch citizen is confronted with court proceedings in which the counterpart seeks the enforcement and recognition of the foreign judgement.

Doping and vetting

Lisa Lazarus and Emma Waters of Morgan Sports Law discussed doping in the equestrian sport as well as the notions of the FEI Equine Prohibited Substance List. They also gave “tricks of the trade” on how to approach the matter of reclassification of prohibited substances from prohibited to controlled.

Mette Uldahl and Malcom Morley both members of

the board of the Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations (the “FEEVA”) discussed the pre-purchase examination and how to protocol them. Standardising the pre-purchase examination across Europe seems at this moment rather not feasible considering the mentioned differences, etc.

“DOES YOUR HORSE SURVIVE A PRE-PURCHASE EXAMINATION?”

The congress ended with an open discussion on the question “Does your horse survive a pre-purchase examination?” which also included topics mentioned hereabove. This question seems to be relevant as in practice many top sport horses do not pass the pre-purchase vetting. With new diagnostics that are becoming widely available potential buyers have access to huge amounts of veterinary data from which it is always possible that something may be identified as a potential problem. Because of this it is very likely that buyers know much more about the horse in question than sellers. In this context one needs to ask oneself what the use of this all is. Do all the possible findings have any clinical relevance? If they did not have any for the seller, why would they for the buyer? Gathering veterinary data is of course good and shall be encouraged but more importantly the data must be correctly assessed and analysed. This is where the vet plays a very important role for the buyer in advising him on the pros and cons of a potential purchase. Common sense must be applied here as well. 🐾



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BOOK REVIEW

LEGENDARY DENNY EMERSON'S NEW BOOK

KNOW BETTER TO DO BETTER – MISTAKES I MADE WITH HORSES *(SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO)*

By Bridget McArdle McKinney

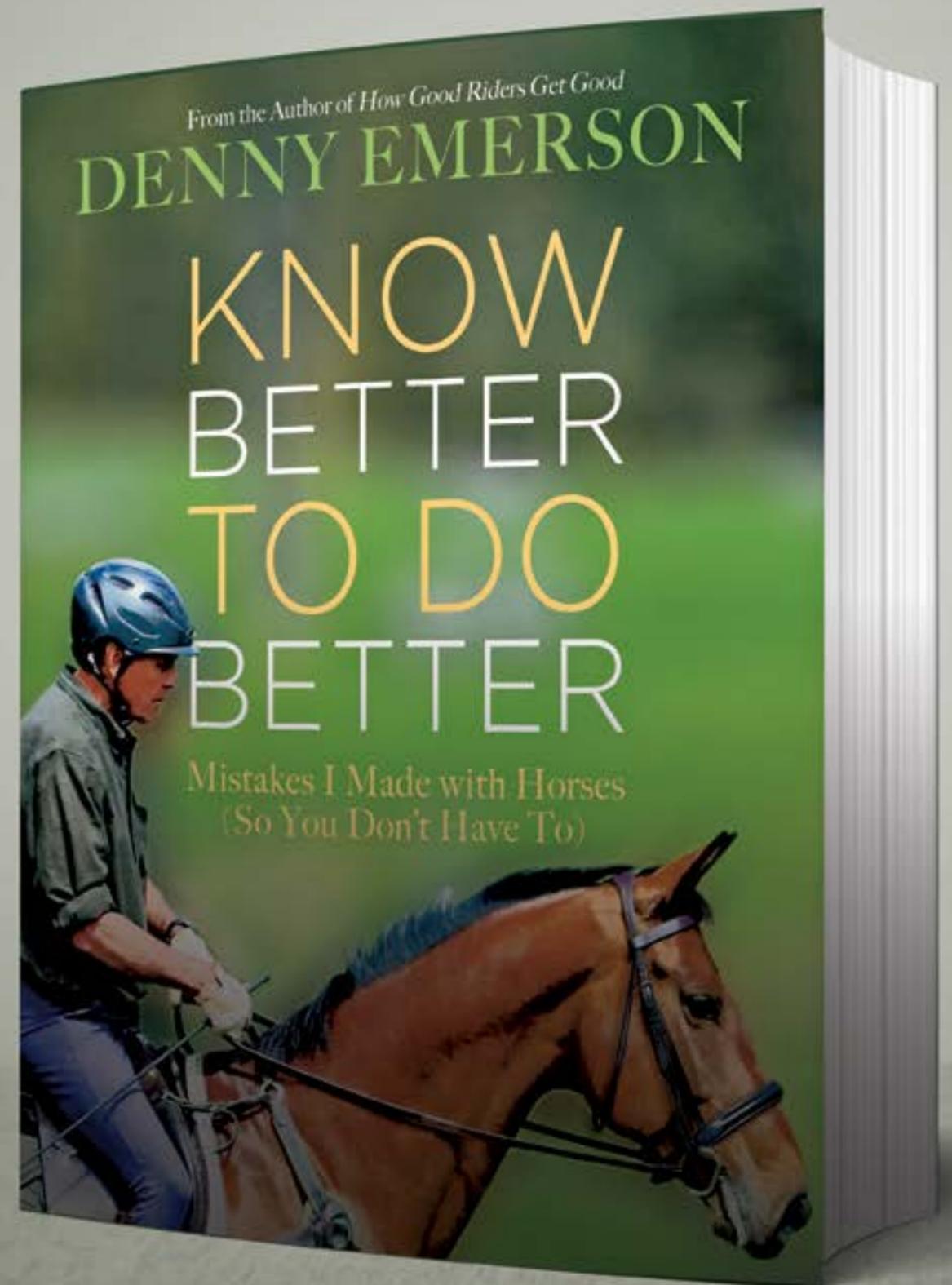
WE AT HORSE TIMES COULD NOT BE MORE PLEASED AND PRIVILEGED TO PRESENT AND PROMOTE THIS MOST RECENT ADDITION TO THE UNIVERSE OF HORSE KNOWLEDGE AND HORSE SENSE WRITTEN BY ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST RESPECTED EQUESTRIANS, DENNY EMERSON, A DISTILLATION OF A LIFETIME OF EXPERIENCE WITH HORSES AND RIDERS, A FUN, LIVELY, AND COMPASSIONATE READ, ESSENTIAL FOR EVERY HORSEPERSON AND HORSE LOVER.

For readers of HT, Denny Emerson needs no introduction. “**Legendary**” doesn’t begin to describe him, in my view “**mythic**” comes closer. From his backyard pony paint to eventing gold medals, endurance buckles, and Hall of Fame and “**Rider of the Year**” honors, Denny stretched for and caught the brass ring each time around.

I myself have known Denny a long, long time. Let me be clear, he doesn’t have a clue who I am. I, along with thousands of horse-mad teens, was an adoring fan of Denny in his eventing heyday in the 70’s. We were there at his early Advance Level beginnings with Cat. We were thrilled when he was named the **United States Eventing Association’s Rider of the Year in 1972** and when he and his beautiful part-Morgan Victor Dakin helped win a US eventing team **gold medal** at Burghley in 1974. Victor Dakin then took Denny to the Montreal Olympics as a reserve rider and shortly after handed Denny the

win at Radnor in 1976. Denny ended that decade with a big win at the National Three Day Event Championship at Chesterland riding the 1979 “**Horse of the Year**”, York.

I followed Denny through other phases of his career, including steeplechase racing, show jumping and dressage, fox hunting, and his momentous win in 2004 of the coveted Tevis Cup buckle in endurance for completing the 100-mile Western States Trail Ride. I admired his deep reverence and support of the Morgan Horse breed and his sense of duty, love and dedication to OTTBs (off-the-track-Thoroughbreds). I followed his advice and exploits in the pages of the venerable American horse weekly, *The Chronicle of the Horse*, and his life as a clinician, trainer, and mentor at his barns at Tamarack Hill Farms in Strafford, Vermont and Southern Pines in North Carolina.





But now I stalk Denny almost daily online. You can, too! His FB page Tamarack Hill Farm posts his advice, stories, tips, questions, sometimes entertaining whimsy and sometimes **“get off my lawn”** grouch. But now we have it all in one book, Denny’s second, *Know Better to do Better, Mistakes I Made with Horses (So You Don’t Have To)*.

The book is chockful of deep insights, practical advice, and moving life lessons and at the end of the day is, as Denny says, **“a ‘toolbox’** of ideas that a reader can refer to when in need of solutions or ideas, sort of the way most people have cookbooks in their kitchen. They don’t read them every day but when the time comes to make a casserole, it’s handy to have the recipe at hand.”

The heart of the book for me was the side-bar stories of each of Denny’s significant horses, what they did, who they were, and what he might have done differently with them with the knowledge he has now, Cat, Victor Dakin, and York among them. These horses were instrumental in several of Denny’s critical **“conversions”**. One of these changes of heart was **“seat”**. He and so many riders, including me, were taught a thrust forward, legs back jumping seat, what Denny calls **“praying mantis”**. He admits that it was not until mid-career that he came to understand that the dynamics of steady safety and efficiency of the human and horse in flight requires a shorter stirrup “jockey” type seat with a fluid hand, what he calls **“question mark”**. Seeing a great tight tucked heads-up jumping seat is a thing of wonder; seeing the

floppy draping seat just makes me cringe, I could name names on the Grand Prix circuit (but I won’t).

The second conversion has to do with control. I think we all were taught in the old days to **“not let him get away with it”** and **“show him who is boss”**. Denny has learned that with an animal born to fear coercion and stress this approach only causes greater friction, a negative on a negative resulting in lasting harm, whereas patience, repetition and reward are the greatest aids to building trust and incremental progress.

As Denny says, **“When we say, “I wish I’d known then what I know now”, that should be an optimistic statement, not one of self-flagellation, because it means that we learned and changed...I won’t conclude with the words “The End”. These two words presume that my learning is over, but tomorrow, I’ll climb on some horse who will show me I’ve still got lots of learn.”**

Know Better to do Better – Mistakes I Made with Horses (So You Don’t Have To)

Author: Denny Emerson

Publisher: Trafalgar Square Books, North Pomfret, Vermont 05053

Photos courtesy of Denny Emerson, Genie Stewart-Spears, and Trafalgar Square Books



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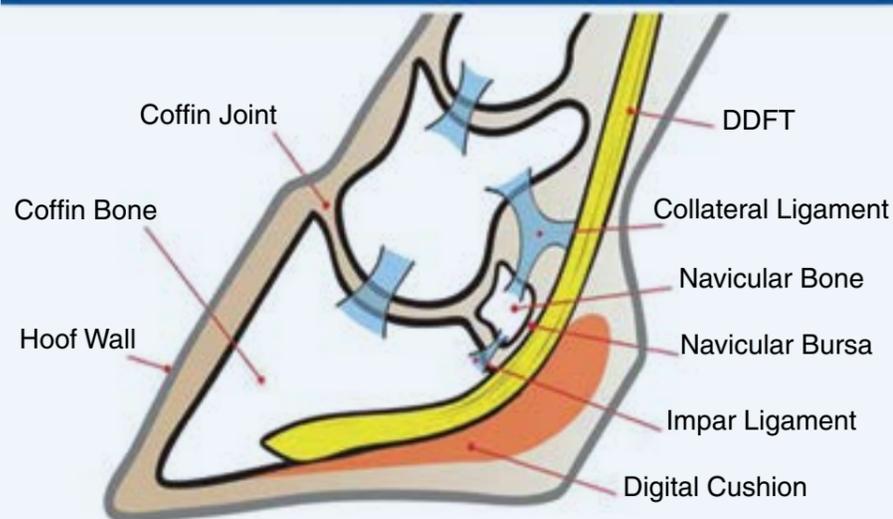
MEDICAL

THE NAVICULAR SYNDROME

By Dr. Ashraf El Kalla

SO MANY TIMES, A HORSE GETS LABELED AS SUFFERING FROM “NAVICULAR,” AND PEOPLE GET ANXIOUS, NOT KNOWING HOW TO TREAT OR EVEN VISUALIZE THE PROBLEM. SO HERE’S AN OVERVIEW.

Internal Hoof Structure



Navicular syndrome, often called **Navicular Disease**, is a syndrome of lameness problems in horses. It is most commonly described as an inflammation or degeneration of the navicular bone and its surrounding tissues, usually on the front feet. It can lead to significant and even disabling lameness.

SO WHAT IS THE NAVICULAR BONE (DISTAL SESAMOID BONE?)

The navicular bone is a small bone that sits deep within the hoof at the **back junction** of the coffin bone and the short pastern bone. The navicular bone has the physical shape of a small canoe.

FUNCTION OF THE NAVICULAR BONE

The primary function of the navicular bone is to provide a gliding surface at the point where the deep digital flexor tendon changes angle.

SYMPTOMS

Navicular disease typically affects both front hooves, although one foot is often worse than the other, so your horse may:

- 1- Initially appear lame on one front leg.
- 2- On the lunge the horse may show lameness on the inside leg in both directions.
- 3- You may also notice that he lands with the toe of the hoof first, ahead of the heel.

In addition, navicular generally **worsens** with hard work.

DIAGNOSIS

If you suspect your horse may be suffering from navicular disease, you should contact your vet.

- 1- They are likely to perform nerve block for the affected area to see if this reduces the lameness.
- 2- The next step is to X-ray the caudal heel area to determine:
 - a- Cyst-like lesions within the navicular bone.
 - b- Degeneration of the flexor surface of the navicular bone.
 - c- Mineralization or calcification of the ligaments associated with the navicular bone.

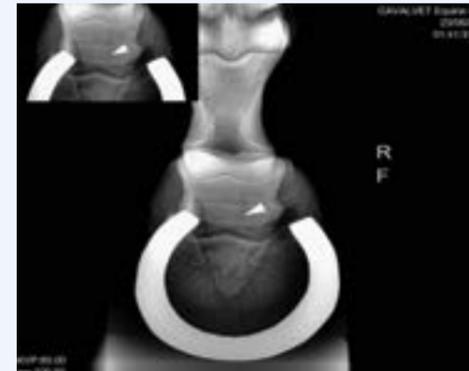
Different X-rays showing the variation of shapes

NORMAL



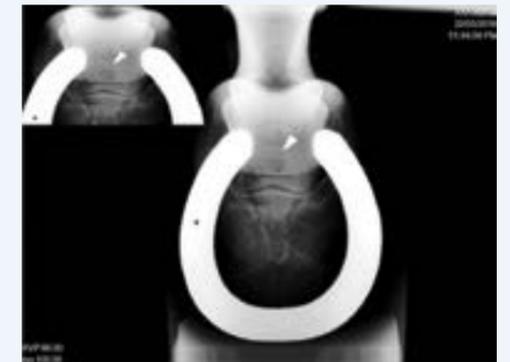
Dorsoproximal-palmar view left front normal navicular bone

ABNORMAL



Dorsoproximal-palmar view right front of a navicular bone multiple large lucent zones along distalpart.

ABNORMAL



Dorsoproximal-palmar view of right front of a navicular bone showing cyst like lesion



Diagram of a navicular bone showing distal nutrient foramina (synovial invaginations) of different shapes

Treatment

Medication generally involves the use of:

- 1-Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) drug such as **phenylbutazone** (Bute).
- 2-Isoxsuprine, which is a vasodilator and addresses the decreased blood flow aspects of these disease processes. The effectiveness of **isoxsuprine** in the treatment of navicular syndrome is somewhat controversial, with some research showing a positive response and some not supporting its use.

3-**Bisphosphonates** to regulate bone metabolism through inhibition of bone resorption and to bring the balance of osteoclast and osteoblast activity back to normal by reducing the activity of osteoclasts and its way better than Tildren.

4-Many cases of navicular syndrome respond to therapeutic shoeing. **Radiographs** can guide trimming and shoeing decisions. They help the veterinarian and farrier determine exactly how much foot they can manipulate and we recommend the **Colleoni PPSC aluminum shoe** as it gives more support to the horse.



Colleoni PPSC aluminum shoe

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