

# HORSE TIMES

EGYPT'S OFFICIAL EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE

From Cairo

Issue #10, Feb 2005

Unexpected  
Results in  
Alex. & Sharm  
CSI-W event

McDonald's  
Sponsors a local event

Arab League  
World Cup  
Qualifiers

Gabreialla Geagea:  
promising young  
future for the next  
generation



# View Point



*Its our first issue for 2005 and the year seems to be kicking off to an excellent start. We have been awarded sole distributor rights in the Middle East to the equestrian community's most esteemed publication L'ANNEE HIPPIQUE. The yearbook covers countless equestrian events and profiles world competitions, making it an essential in any horse lover's library. Our readers will also have access to view top quality sports horses, courtesy of Ullrich Kasselmann and Paul Schockemeihle.*

*I would like to think that this burst of good luck comes with the hiring of Ms. Zeinab Mostafa, who joins the Horse Times team as Managing Editor. Zeinab's efforts bring a fresh and unconventional character to this issue, which I am sure will appeal to our readers.*

*Zeinab and I have also decided to publish letters we receive from our readers in a dedicated section of the magazine. So bring it on; your ideas and feedback will only contribute to Horse Times' success and growth.*

*Life, like a tide, has its highs and lows, and its with a heavy heart that we bid farewell to Paul Darragh; a truly outstanding showjumper. I have had the honour of riding with Paul and his presence and contributions will be missed. On behalf of the magazine I take this opportunity to extend my deepest condolences to his family.*

*Finally, I hope you enjoy this issue of Horse Times as much as I have enjoyed putting it together. The relationship between horse and man goes far back in time, with a bond that is profound, almost human like. This issue, and issues to come, will only hope to celebrate that.*

*Enjoy the issue*

*Khaled Assem*

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Mohamed Mansour on Amadeus



Gabriella Geagea



Women of the Amazons

**FEI WORLD CUP JUMPING**

Dutch rider Wim Schroeder and his Olympic partner Eurocommerce Montreal galloped to victory in the opening leg of the 2004/2005 FEI World Cup Jumping series in Oslo on October 10. It was no easy win as a total of 18 of the 38 starters qualified for the jump-off. Robert Spaine set the first real target in the jump-off with Coolcoron Cool Diamond but was taking no chances when going for a careful clear in 37.57 as this was the stallion's first big show for 14 months. Germany's Christian Ahlmann and the mare Contessa went into the lead when shaving 0.6 off the Irishman's time. Switzerland's Steve Guerdat immediately bettered that with Isovlas Orohidoo almost a second quicker. Frenchmen Edouard Couperie (Pro Pilot II) and Philippe Leoni (Cyrnaika FRH) both left all the fences standing as did Denmark's Thomas Vain and Godsend du Revendy but without threatening the leader and Guerdat was looking good until Wim cantered into the ring. Scorching round the track, the 33-year-old stopped the clock in 34.71 and the rest could not catch him.

Rolf-Göran Bengtsson stormed to victory in the second leg of the 2004/2005 FEI World Cup Jumping series at the 20th anniversary Helsinki International Horse Show in Finland (October 17) which attracted half the world's top ten riders. Second-last to go in the seven-horse jump-off, Bengtsson, riding the 10 year old gelding MacKinley, was chasing the target-time of 40.09 seconds set by Germany's Moritz Michaelis-Baerbaum and Check Mate but the Swedish rider left the result in no doubt when breaking the beam in the super-fast time of 39.25 seconds.

Germany's Toni Hasemann won the third leg in Verona, Italy riding the promising young mare Lolita. A total of 12 went through to the jump-off but only three produced double-clear performances. Belgium's Jean-Claude Vangeenberghe got it just right however, setting the first real target when clear with Osta Hugu Andiamo Z in 39.16 seconds. Andrea Heroldt came very close to the leader when breaking the beam in 40.28 seconds to move into the runner up spot temporarily. Helsinki winners Rolf-Göran Bengtsson and MacKinley presented no threat to the leading pack when collecting eight faults in a slow time but Hasemann scorched round in 38.16 seconds.

Brazil's Rodrigo Pessoa produced a sparkling performance with Baloubet du Rouet to win the fourth leg in Geneva. Going fifth in the 11-horse jump-off, Baloubet stormed home in a time none could match with Germany's Christian Ahlmann and Coster slotting into runner-up spot following a slow and careful clear. Baloubet du Rouet's playful character can sometimes prove frustrating but the 15-year-old stallion was firing on all cylinders. Baloubet exploded over the final oxer to stop the clock in 38.80 seconds.

Britain's Richard Davenport produced the biggest result of his career to win the fifth leg of the FEI World Cup Jumping series at the Great Hall in Olympia during London's traditional Christmas show. Riding the nine-year-old mare Laguna, Richard, 24, who lives near Manchester in England set the target in the 13 horse jump-off and many of the best in the world, including Geneva winners Rodrigo Pessoa and Baloubet du Rouet, could not improve on that.

Denmark's Tina Lund created a huge sensation when snatching victory with her last-to-go effort in the sixth leg of the FEI World Cup Jumping series in Mechelen, Belgium. The 23-year-old former European Young Rider Champion from Copenhagen steered the 10-year-old chestnut mare Andante fast and clear over the jump-off track to demote long-time leader Toni Hasemann to runner-up spot.

**ZOER SETS ZUIDLAREN ON FIRE**

A jubilee anniversary, another record setting crowd and a winner from the host province: it couldn't get any better than it was in Zuidlaren. The crowning glory came when Echten-based Albert Zoer closed the 50th edition of NIC Zuidlaren with victory in the BMO Grand Prix of Zuidlaren with Lowina, a daughter of Farnor.

The jubilee show was a real fire cracker of an event for this normally sober northern part of the Netherlands. Yet combine a lot of knowledgeable horse people, and not a few experts, and a very faithful public who sympathize and appreciate sporting achievement in the arena and the show held in the Prins Bernhardhoeve could not have been anything but a success.

NIC Zuidlaren is Holland's oldest indoor horse show. There were 36,000 visitors. Highlight of the jubilee was the visit of HM The Queen of the Netherlands.

Jacob Mellissen



**CSI\*\*\*\*  
STUTT GART**

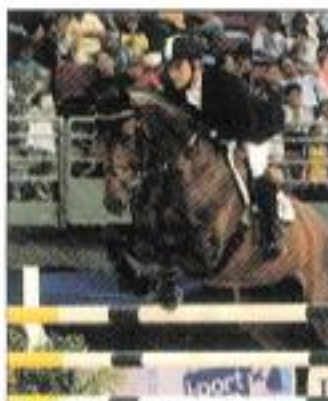
The 20th anniversary edition of the Stuttgart German Masters attracted almost 60,000 spectators over its five days. Marcus Ehning won for the third time the Mercedes German Master title in show jumping. With his 2003 World Cup winner Anka, the Olympic team gold medalist recorded the fastest round in a seven-horse decider. Marcus previously won the title in 1999 and 2002 with For Ploasuro and for his efforts this year collected the keys to a Mercedes Benz A 200 valued at 25,980 Euro. Only John Whitaker had succeeded, so far, in achieving the hat trick winning in 1988, 1989, and 1992 with the legendary Millan.

After his victory late on Friday night, Ehning said he "was very lucky to be the last starter in the jump-off." Luck however played little part in his success as Marcus thoroughly earned his starting position after finishing top of 12 finalists after two qualifying rounds.

Clear in round one of the final, the pair also came home without fault in the jump-off, crossing the finish in 31.93 seconds to take over the lead from young Swiss rider Christina Liebherr and L.B. No Mercy (0/32.56).

**CSI\*\*\*\*\*  
KUALA LUMPUR**

The KL Grand Prix and feature class of three spectacular days of jumping at the Putra Stadium in Kuala Lumpur (October 1-3) was claimed by German based New Zealander, Daniel Meech, a rider somewhat left of the mainstream field. The 30 year old Meech, riding his Olympic mount, Diagonal, said he knew he was in with a chance, but wasn't really expecting to out gallop the ten strong jump-off field as "Daggers is not really a super fast horse." Nevertheless he did to win the richest class of his career and pocket the first prize of 60,000 Euros—the prize money in Kuala Lumpur being only bettered by Calgary.



Grand Prix winners New Zealander Daniel Meech & Diagonal Julie Wilson

## Reports on the European Scene L'ANNÉE HIPPIQUE AWARDS 2004



Frans Papeland

BCM's Eric Bruegel presents the L'Année Hippique Award for Best Outdoor Jumping Show to Randy W. Fedorak of Spruce Meadows.

The Award for Best Indoor Jumping Event went to the CSI-W Geneva (SUI) and the Award for best Eventing show was presented to the CDI Rhenheim (GBH).

### SCHROEDER WINS GRAND PRIX OF MAASTRICHT

Wim Schroeder and his Olympic mount Eurocommerce Montreal became the first Dutch winners of the Grand Prix in 17 years of Jumping Indoor Maastricht when they managed to hold off the challenge of Ireland's Jessica Kürten and Quiboll in an exciting jump-off.

Only seven combinations out of a field of 44, stayed clear in the first round: five Dutch, Germany's Marcus Beerbaum and Jessica Kürten. She was first to go in the jump-off with Quiboll (by Quidam de Revel) and stayed clear and it looked a fast round. Dutchman Roelof Bri started promisingly with Billy Orange (by Animo), but finished with eight faults for sixth place eventually. From the start it was clear that Wim Schroeder had set his mind on winning. "Montreal (by Athol Z) can turn short even if he is running," said Wim afterwards. He crossed the line over two seconds faster than Kürten. No one could beat that.

The remaining four combinations had their respective troubles. Jeron Dubbeldam was unlucky in a short right-hand turn with a lil Nassau (by Indestro) who slipped and almost fell and that loss of balance resulted in four faults. Yves Houtackers with Gran Corrado (by Granus) and Angelique Hoom with BCO VDL Ouzla (by Indorado) also had four faults to finish fourth and fifth. Last to go Marcus Beerbaum had bad luck with Leona (by Lord Liberty) on the same turn as Dubbeldam. Leona lost her grip for a moment and Beerbaum fell off which meant disqualification and seventh place.



Wim Schroeder & Eurocommerce Montreal.

## People & Places



Washington: Show president Sheila Johnson and Charles Mann, a former Washington Redskins.



Vienna: Hugo Simon and E.T.



Maastricht BCM's Herk Bruegel, the FEI's Eva Salonen and Michel De Bessière of NFG Group Berckx.



Geneva: French international tennis player Guy Forget and Arnaud.

## NEWS

### Equestrian Community Mourns Darragh

THE Irish equestrian community, much-divided in recent times due to a long series of controversies including the ongoing saga of Cian O'Connor's Olympic doping case, was united in grief over the recent sudden death from a suspected heart attack of former show jumping star Paul Darragh who died at his home in County Meath on January 3, aged 51 years.

Paul's reputation as a professional extended over a long and successful career that climaxed in the 1970's when he was part of the Irish "dream team" that included Eddie Macken, Capt. Con Power and James Kemien.

He enjoyed a real renaissance in his career when, after agreeing to take on HRH Princess Haya as a pupil in December 1994, he then recorded an incredible couple of seasons with her two talented horses Cora and Scandal. Princess Haya said, "I don't know anyone who had such a long, ongoing chapter in their sporting

life encompassing several generations. Paul played a huge part in the history of show jumping in Ireland."

### 2005 FEI AGM

THE FEI's 2005 General Assembly will be held at the Grange City Hotel in London from April 6 through 10. A Forum will be held, at which the recently appointed FEI Task Force on Doping and Medication Policy will present its conclusions and discuss them with participants.

### LAS VEGAS TICKETS

TICKETS for the 2005 Dressage and Jumping World Cup Finals to be held in Las Vegas at the Thomas and Mack Center, April 20-24, 2005 can be ordered online at [www.worldcuplasvegas.com](http://www.worldcuplasvegas.com). According to the organizers, series ticket sales have already surpassed the total ticket sales from 2003, when the Budweiser Jumping World Cup Final last took place in Las Vegas.

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BCM publishes over 20 magazines/publications on equestrianism, canoe, diving, soccer etc., organises over 25 horse shows world-wide and manages the Samsung Nabors Cup.



# HORSE INTERNATIONAL

SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Reports on Calendars and Rankings

## FEI WORLD RANKINGS JUMPING RIDERS AS OF 4 JANUARY 2005

1	7	Ludger Beerbaum	GER	2810.40	42	42	Laura Kraut	USA	991.53
2	3	Rüdiger Pessoa	SPA	2571.58	43	41	Rene Tebbel	GER	977.06
3	1	Nyree Allwright	GBR	2481.75	44	48	Kimberly Fry	USA	943.62
4	4	Marcus Ehning	GER	2342.92	45	36	Edouard Cougnon	FRA	937.22
5	7	Markus Fuchs	SUI	2338.46	46	54	Franka Schock	GER	933.77
6	6	Toni Hasemann	GER	2136.61	47	51	Lea Thümler	GER	927.00
7	5	Dezoe Madden	USA	2044.60	48	52	Cian O'Connor	IRL	909.68
8	10	Robert Smith	GBR	1971.52	49	46	L. Olin-Klippel	USA	905.75
9	8	Dirk Decker	GER	1876.21	50	49	Marc van Dieb	BEL	905.77
10	19	Lars Nieberg	GER	1804.02	51	47	Norman Delo Joly	USA	899.55
11	9	Luis Philippon	BEL	1729.25	52	46	John Whitaker	GBR	893.00
12	15	Nick Skelton	GBR	1728.30	53	45	Eugenie Arget	FRA	891.27
13	16	Wim Schneider	NED	1681.90	54	48	Laura Hough	USA	887.38
14	13	Nicola Kuscher	GER	1643.94	55	40	Geoffrey Puck	AUS	785.00
15	11	Michael Whitaker	GBR	1591.49	56	50	Christina Lubben	SUI	784.23
16	14	Rüdiger Beerbaum	GER	1585.92	57	63	Dermet Lennon	IRL	761.40
17	18	Christien Ahmann	GER	1555.00	58	64	Manus Heurbaux	GER	761.11
18	23	Jessica Kurler	IRL	1515.04	59	56	Piet Heymakers	NED	744.20
19	22	McLain Ward	USA	1465.88	60	57	Schuyler Hily	USA	740.28
20	17	Peter Wylde	USA	1421.42	61	53	Thomas Vein	GBR	735.34
21	21	Steve Guerdat	SUI	1379.11	62	70	Allen G. Pirestone	USA	705.50
22	18	Melin Garyand	GBR	1363.79	63	60	Jensen Dubbeldan	NED	692.57
23	20	Maureen Ashmore	GER	1360.00	64	77	W. J. Van der Schueren	NED	671.50
24	26	Michel Hébert	FRA	1315.02	65	62	Anne Kursinski	USA	665.11
25	24	Jean-Marie Goossens	FRA	1301.30	66	61	Orlando Braccosoli	FRA	665.69
26	29	J. C. Van Leeuwen	NED	1277.08	67	69	Ian Millar	CAN	641.11
27	28	Chris Kappeler	USA	1210.61	68	72	Nicole Simpson	USA	626.45
28	30	Michael Robert	FRA	1199.40	69	74	Heidi Menden	SUI	622.44
29	31	Aola Polmann-Schulz	GBR	1150.07	70	71	Philippe LeJeune	BEL	625.77
30	25	Bernardo Alves	BRA	1138.94	71	81	Hannah Engemann	GER	623.00
31	35	Gerco Schroeder	NED	1132.31	72	67	Shelia Moran	USA	617.60
32	30	Hubert Bourdy	FRA	1120.01	73	65	Tommy Andre Knorr	NOR	616.10
33	32	Dirk Van der Vleuten	NED	1113.23	74	66	Juan Carlos Garcia	ITA	605.40
34	39	Christophe Barbau	SUI	1076.11	75	67	Soeren Von Roenne	GER	602.60
35	27	Jes Larsen	BEL	1073.34	76	70	Patrice Delavau	FRA	592.83
36	44	Lionel Van Assen	NED	1027.50	77	79	N. Schulerberger	SUI	579.23
37	31	Link Lommersman	BEL	1026.75	78	90	Alben Zuer	NED	575.00
38	38	Gert Jan Huggink	NED	1010.40					
39	37	Kevin Robinson	GBR	998.11					
40	55	Robert Whitaker	GBR	993.50					
41	40	Richard Spooner	USA	993.48					

## FEI WORLD RANKINGS DRESSAGE RIDERS AS OF 4 JANUARY 2005

1	1	Anky van Groenou	NED	79.552	25	25	Victoria Mac-Théure	AUT	71.39
2	3	Debbie McInnes	USA	76.734	26	29	Monte-Lise Weitzel	SUI	71.201
3	4	Beatrix Ferrer-Sabat	ESP	76.591	27	23	Alexandra Kostova	RUS	71.250
4	7	Hubertus Schmidt	GER	76.584	28	24	Leslie Reid	CAN	71.251
5	5	Andrea Hechtland	GER	75.458	29	36	Nicole Kaiser-Kappler	GER	70.818
6	8	Dafne Soto-Andrade	ESP	75.234	30	2	Lisa Sabatini	GER	70.811
7	9	Robert Dover	USA	75.212	31	30	Stefan Peters	USA	70.747
8	11	Ann-Kathrin Liesenfeld	GER	75.19	32	31	Jon D. Pedersen	GBR	70.735
9	6	Hilke Kommer	GER	74.966	33	32	Leslie Morie	USA	70.704
10	10	Edward Gaj	NED	74.945	34	33	Lisa Niloux	USA	70.683
11	14	Isabel Worm	GER	74.724	35	30	Anja Pfenning	GER	70.560
12	12	Jan Henk	SWE	74.621	36	46	Gina Capellmann-L	GER	70.56
13	13	Maria Schaub	GER	74.471	37	34	Julia Chevalier-Gimel	FRA	70.478
14	15	Quenter Jocke	USA	73.651	38	40	Guzanna Lobot	GER	70.275
15	16	Elena Schewe	RUS	73.568	39	37	Laura Nethmann	GBR	70.239
16	22	Carl Heister	GER	72.091	40	48	Constanze Rugeheimer	GER	71.194
17	17	Pir Sandgaard	GBR	72.807	41	39	Jonny Heister	GER	71.087
18	18	Juan A. Jimenez-Coto	ESP	72.709	42	38	Nora McEvoy	GBR	68.961
19	19	Elen Schulan-Bauer	GER	72.516	43	47	Lina Wilhelm	SWE	68.934
20	20	Iris Schellens-Berke	NED	72.151	44	14	Richard Davison	GBR	68.948
21	20	Silvia Kle	SUI	71.896	45	41	Irene Lis	NOR	68.879
22	21	Sam G. Rubbenberger	NED	71.67	46	42	Erica Parle	GER	68.874
23	26	Lone Jonjensen	DEN	71.703					
24	27	Wolfram Wieg	GER	71.61					

## HORSE INTERNATIONAL

## L'ANNÉE HIPPIQUE

Horse International and the international equestrian yearbook L'Année Hippique are published by BCM and are the official publications of the FEI.

## FEI WORLD CUP SHOW JUMPING 2004/05

### FINAL STANDINGS

#### CENTRAL EUROPEAN LEAGUE

1	Grzegorz Kulak	POL	85
2	Igor Kachelov	RUS	82
3	Gunnar Krienenberg	EST	79
4	Krzysztof Ludwiczak	POL	78
5	Vladimir Tuganov	RUS	76
6	Nes Opatny	CZE	72
7	Gurlans Siltsh	LAT	62
8	Umas Raag	EST	51
9	Sencer Can	TUR	53
	Cyrgy Komendy	HUN	49
11	Ilija Pili	EST	52
12	Zdenek Zila	CZE	45
13	Zsolt Pink	HUN	43
14	Juraj Hanuly	SVK	38
15	Balazs Horvath	HUN	37
16	Lukasz Janczyk	POL	35
	Angel Niagolov	BUL	35
	Asenurh Atanayov	BUL	35
	Bartosz Goszczynski	POL	35

## FEI WORLD CUP SHOW JUMPING 2004/05

### WESTERN EUROPEAN LEAGUE STANDINGS AFTER MECHELEN (BEL)

1	Wim Schröder	NED	46
2	Toni Hasemann	GER	44
3	Christophe Barbau	SUI	42
4	Eric van der Vleuten	NED	40
5	Rolf-Göran Bengtsson	SWE	37
6	Neredith Michaelis-B.	GER	32
7	Richard Laverpot	GBR	30
8	Marcus Ehning	GER	28
9	Rodrigo Pessoa	BRA	27
10	Christian Ahmann	GER	26
11	Steve Huardet	SUI	25
12	Robert Whitaker	GBR	24
	Nick Skelton	GBR	24
	Michael Whitaker	GBR	24
15	Tina Lunt	CAN	22
	Gerco Schroeder	NED	22
17	Philippe Louri	FRA	21
18	J. C. Vanjoorbeeghe	BEL	20
19	Bernardo Alves	BRA	19

## USET Show Jumping Computer Rankings, 7 January 2005

1	McLain Ward	8700	1211Carolee S. King	3730
2	Peter Wylde	8710	1414Richard Spooner	3677
3	Dezoe Madden	7632	1518Georgina Roomberg	3178
4	Laura Kraut	5110	1617Christine Tibble	3252
5	Kimberly Fry	5655	1719Kevin Washington	3014
6	Laura Hough	5065	1815Norman Delo Joly	3233
7	Wahne Gurnski	4745	1916Shelia Moran	2950
8	Schuyler C. Hily	4631	2020David Raposa	2878
9	Molly Asho	4024	2121Alex G. Emstone	2784
10	Chris Kappeler	4007	2221Jan D. Miller	2584
11	Margo Engle	3072		

## JUMPING SHOW DATES FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL, MAY 2004

04-08/02	CSI-W BORDEAUX	FRA
17-20/02	CSI***/CDI-W NEUMUNSTER	GER
10-13/03	CSI***/CDI*** DORTMUND	GER
10-12/03	CSI-W PARIS-BERCY	FRA
15-20/03	CSI*** VILLER DE LA FRONTERA	ESP
17-20/03	CSI-W/CDI-W/CAI-W 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH	NED
24-28/03	CSI-W/CAI-W GOETTERBURG	SWE
31/03 (3/04)	CSI***/CDI-W DÜSSELDORF	GER
07-10/04	CSI*** SHEFFIELD	GBR
20-24/04	CSI-W FINAL/CDI-W FINAL LAS VEGAS	USA
26-30/04	CSI*** MONTE CARLO	MON
05-08/05	CSI*** EINDHOVEN	NED
05-08/05	CSI*** HAMBURG	GER
05-08/05	CSI*** LA BAULE	FRA
12-15/05	CSI*** LINZ-EBELSBURG	AUT
10-16/05	CSI***/CDI*** WIESBADEN	GER
20-22/05	CSI*** AACH	GER
26-29/05	CSI*** MADRID	ESP
26-29/05	CSI*** ROME	ITA

WWW.BCM.NL

# FEROUSEYA Club EVENT IN MEMORY of GEN. ABDUALLA EL GAZAERLY

The Ferouseya Club held its annual event in memory of its late president Gen. Abdulla El Gazaerly, who was also president of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation 1992-1996. The Gazaerly family donated 12,000 L.E. in prize money for the show

The event was sponsored by McDonald's, who was the main sponsor for the equestrian sport at the last Olympics. Despite the drawbacks, McDonald's continue to sponsor the show-jumping sport in Egypt, carrying on their motto, "We have to give back to the community we operate within.

The day started at nine o'clock in the morning with a small class for novice and young riders 80-90cm, not against the clock and equal first for all competitors. Followed by a 90-100cm class, a single round against the clock.

The next class was a 110-120-cm class, one round and a jump off. The final round was a 120-130cm class, one round and a jump off.



Mr. Ahmed El Maghraby, Gen. Elaw Ghazy, Najla El Maghraby, Gen. Khalil Khamla, Mrs. Malak Ekaf



Mr. Elwy Ghazy, Mrs. Malak Akaf, Erfan El Gazaerly, Najla El Maghraby, Mr. Ahmed El Maghraby, Gen. Khamis Khalil Amr Eld, & Eng. Abdel Fatah Regab



Mohamed Abdel Fatah Regab

Organizers & contestants in the event





Sameh Hatab & Najla El Maghraby

## Results

Position	Name
First	Sameh Hatab
Second	Gen. Ahmed El Sawaf
Third	Mohamed El Borei
Fourth	Nahla El Sawaf



Mohamed El Borei & Erfan El Gazarly



Gen. Ahmed El Sawaf & Mr. Ahmed El Maghraby



Mimo On Amedeus



Nahla El Sawaf & Erfan El Gazarly





# Unexpected results in Alexandria Et Sharm El Sheikh CSI-W show jumping event

By Ahmed Talaat

One can only feel tremendous pride, especially as an Egyptian, in attending two grand equestrian shows such as those held in Alexandria and Sharm El Sheikh last November. Kings Ranch in Alexandria, is an exceptional equestrian center boasting a super fiber sand arena, while the Concord El Salam, in Sharm El Sheikh, is ground to one of Egypt's top hotel and features an excellent grass arena, with a beautiful beach and year round perfect weather as nature's own backdrop.

In preparation for the events, I was privileged to work with two of the top course designers in the world, whom brought different methods of design to each course. In Alexandria was the German Werner Deeg, one of the top official international course designers in the world, and in Sharm El Sheikh, also the German Olat Peterson senior, who gained critical acclaim for his design of last year's Olympic Games in Athens. Each of those two designers had his unique way of doing things. Petersen looked at designs differently and Deeg had a special way of designing his courses by putting all of the distances in the combinations, in one loop. By that, one cannot take a rest in the middle of the course, and has to be really attentive throughout the show.

The results were excellent. A bumpy ride for European riders logistically, was thankfully forgiven and forgotten upon arrival to Sharm El Sheikh given the wonderful venue and excellent weather. Kings Ranch's facilities exceeded their expectations and proved to be a huge success with the riders. We were also complemented on our friendliness and helpfulness.

"I was unlucky in Sharm El Sheikh but I really enjoyed my time in Egypt," said Claudia Hertel, a German competitor in the show. On the first day in Alex., Hertel won the 12th place in the big tour and 4th in the small one. She then won 9th place in the grand prize on the fourth day. In Sharm El Sheikh, Hertel won the small tour and had one down in all other rounds.

The events saw an impressive participation and performance from many Egyptian riders. Alaa Maysarah Habash won fifth place in Sharm El Sheikh with Darios (Sameh Hatab's horse), whom he had only rode three times before. His own mare Karta, had undergone some health problems prohibiting its participation. However, Habash's strong effort and persistence, together with the help of Hatab, kept him in the lead of the Arabian league.

Hadi Sami Gabr won first place in Alexandria's grand prize with his talented eight-year old horse El Mandoub. Gabr competed in the A2 class and the A1, just one show before the international. His performance could have gained him Sharm's grand prize, if it weren't for his horse falling down before the last line in the 1st round of the grand prize.

The youngest rider in both shows, was Islam Amr Eid,



Marc Ostendorf



Abdualla Sharbatly



Ahmed Talaat & Jorg Boukmann

a 16-year-old who did a really good job in the whole competition and surprised people with his amazing technique. Eid won the junior class and was placed in the two grand prizes.

The fourth champion was Ahmed Ashraf Bassiouni, 17 years old, who competed in the big tour and the grand prize with his mare Temptation. Bassiouni competed in the A2 in the national competitions and did a clear round in the two grand prizes.

Among the competitors in the event was Marc Ostendorf, Owner of Farnos, a Stud farm in Germany. Ostendorf brought two of his famous riders, Karl Brockx from Germany & Gerald Gessink from the Netherlands to compete in the show. Ostendorf's horse had a colic between the two rounds, thus, he couldn't finish the second round and retired. He then couldn't compete in the Sharm El Sheikh tournament.

Another champion in the competition was Abdallah El Sharbatly, from Saudi Arabia, who won several prizes in the two tournaments and had two of the top horses in the competition. El Sharbatly won second place in both grand prizes.

The winner of the Grand prize was the Olympic rider Ibrahim Bisharat who came to Egypt with the same horse he competed with in the 2004 Olympics. Bisharat wasn't lucky in the first grand prize where he took the last fence down, but in Sharm El Sheikh, he won the first in the grand prize after a perfect, double-clear rounds.

"It was a great show, and I would love to come here again next year if there were any more shows," said England's Sophie Tobin, who came 3rd in the accumulator competition, and 7th in the grand prize in Alex. Moreover, Tobin won 7th place in the two phase competition and 9th in the grand prize in Sharm El Sheikh.

German horse owner, Jorg Beukmann was impressed with the caliber of Egyptian riders. "I thought that competing with Egyptian riders was an easy task, however, the opposite was proven," Beukmann said. ■



**Top:** Hadi Gabr in Pitze with Eng. A.Ragab, Mr. & Mrs. Samir Abdel Fatah & his Exe. Gov. of Alexandria

**Middle:** Karim Hamdy, Ahmed Ragab, Mohamed Sahry, Mohamed El Borai, Alaa Maysara, Ahmed Talaal, Samih El Kabir & Amr Magdi

**Bottom right:** Ahmed Talaal in jumping arena

## Ina in Osnabruecker Land ;

**Every Year in December: A Horse made by 'PSI':**  
The world-famous auction for horses celebrates its 25th anniversary with fantastic prices

By: Ina El Kobbia- Germany



Paul Schockemeohle, Dr. Ursula von der Leyen, Uwe Heckmann & Ullrich Kasselmann at PSI auction

December is Christmas time in Germany! Streets, shops and homes sparkle with Christmas decorations. The city of Osnabrueck opens for a whole month a Christmas fair that offers all kinds of delicious biscuits, spicy punch and handicraft works. The fair stretches across the wonderful old part of the town, starting from the historic town hall, where in the year 1648 the Peace Treaty of Westphalia was signed and that is today the seat of its renowned mayor Hans-Juergen Fip. At Christmas a green splendid Christmas tree is a must; whereby not everybody is as lucky as I am, having a family on whose beautiful estate of 'Karlage' year by year some 4000 magnificent Christmas trees stand in fine cultivated rows. Unlike probably any other time of the year, in December and at Christmas, people willingly and joyfully empty their pockets to spend and invest little fortunes on many good things and for many good reasons too... A horse out of the treasury box of PSI (Performance Sales International) would very likely mean to invest a brilliant fortune and most probably also for a very good reason... Every year in December PSI performs an outstanding auction for horses in the little parish of 'Ankum' in the north of the Osnabruecker Land. On 12th December 2004 PSI opened the doors for its elite international bidders and guests already for the

25th time and one might add: with at all times greatest possible success; another very good reason for a celebration!

Performance Sales International once established in 1980 by Ullrich Kasselmann and Paul Schockemeohle has become one of the world's most successful auctions for the international riding sport; until today 1300 horses were sold by the PSI Auction for a total sum of 137.8 Million Euro; unbeaten remains the word record price of 2.5 Million Euro that was achieved for the mare 'Poelin' in December 2003!

With Nordic charm and plenty of energy the auctioneer of PSI for many years 'Uwe Heckmann' swings his hammer and makes the international bidders from France, Germany, Luxembourg, Brazil, Mexico, USA, United Arab Emirates, Eastern Europe and Asia bid higher & higher... In the jubilee year 2004 PSI presented 52 horses for the international dressage and jumping sport. The bidding for each horse started with 10.000 Euro and within no more than four minutes a fantastic horse was sold. The average price achieved for a horse at this year's auction was 231.392 Euro. The highest price, 1.2 Million Euro, was paid for the 1998 born bay Holstein gelding 'Quin Chin'. 'Quin Chin' won the gold medal at the World Championships for young jumping horses in 2004. 'Santa

Cruz', the 6 year old dark bay Oldenburg stallion, was sold at a price of 750.000 Euro, which was the highest price at the auction this year for a dressage horse. The 'cheapest' horse of the auction was 'Centurio', a 6 year old bay Oldenburg gelding presented for the jumping sport; 'Centurio' was sold for 40.000 Euro.

In the mid of the official horse auction PSI implemented a very nice idea: a Charity Auction for UNICEF! Dr. Ursula von der Leyen, Minister of Social Affairs, Family and Health Care of the State of Lower Saxony lead the charity auction. The Minister, who is an ardent horse lover herself and was like Ullrich Kasselmann a former auction rider at the prestigious Auction in Verden, is also a wonderful mother of seven children. The Charity Auction gathered 70.000 Euro for UNICEF for children in need in Egypt!

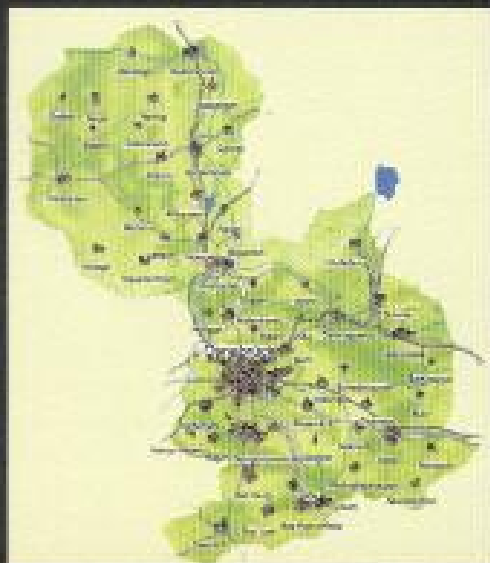
**"... a young horse is in need of a very good education from a very well educated rider."**

#### Talking to the international horseman Ullrich Kasselmann

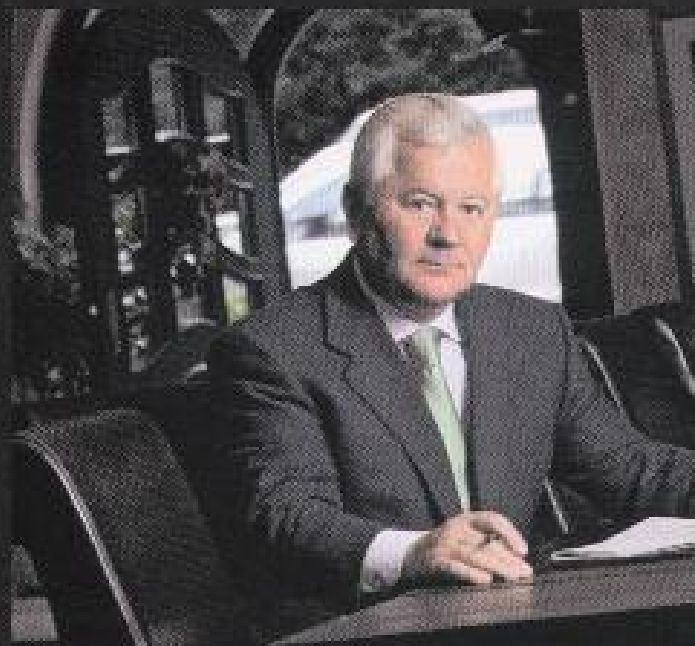
When I met with Ullrich Kasselmann on 19th January 2005 after a long day in my office, I felt refreshed by the presence of a straightforward, powerful, but warm and welcoming person. Talking to Ullrich Kasselmann is like addressing at the same time the whole international riding sport; there is hardly any national or international event that he is not engaged in, in some way.

I asked him about the amazing success of the PSI-Auctions that seem to hit records all the time. He told me: "It is the strong and reliable partnership between two independent horsemen, the competence we established and the high quality we care for that allows for success. These young horses at our auctions are carefully selected talents, which we build up and train for the demands of the elite international riding sport. Moreover at our auction we only present horses that are owned either by Paul Schockemoehle or me; we do not take horses on commission."

"Looking back", I said, "a notable amount of 30% of the horses at the Olympics in Athens were German bred.



[www.osnebruecker-land.de](http://www.osnebruecker-land.de)



Kasselmann expects a bright future for the Middle East in dressage & show-jumping

What makes Germany that strong in breeding horses for jumping and dressage?" Kasselmann explained that Germany holds a long tradition in breeding horses and has established a very selective breeding. Furthermore the very well functioning symbiosis between the riding sport and the breeding in addition to the high education for both horse & rider that Germany provides for are the grounds of success. He added: "Especially a young horse is in need of a very good education from a very well educated rider."

Knowing about the many activities of Ullrich Kasselmann in the riding sport around the globe, I asked him about his engagement and support to those regions and nations that have promising riders and are longing to match the elite international riding sport. "Asia", he said, "is a very promising region in both dressage and jumping! The riders are extremely disciplined! (\* note: the Korean Jumping Team took ninth place at the recent Olympics\*). In the Middle East I saw that Saudi Arabia has established a whole team with talented jumping riders. For two decades now I have been in close relation to the Sultanate of Oman and I was recently again in Qatar; there is an amazing development and improvement in the dressage and jumping sport in the region; even socially: more & more women are joining the riding sport, which is surely thanks to the riding Princess Haya."

"Do you know about the S-M-L Tour?", this time Kasselmann asked me and continued, "in the S-M-L Tour riders from around the globe have the opportunity to test their own riding talents on internationally renowned grounds like the Derby Arena in Hamburg, Hickstead or The German Classics in Hanover. It is a wonderful chance for all the talented riders from the Middle East, Asia and other regions who want to take up and improve their talents together with their horses; competing on international grounds is essential for the development of both horse & rider. The International Riders Festival Horses & Dreams here in Hagen has joined the S-M-L Tour as well." Before ending our nice conversation I asked Kasselmann about his wishes for the year 2005, he answered me: "a happy year in good health with plenty of good horses!"

# GABRIELLA GEAGEA

## "My trip to California was a dream come true!"

By: Jean-Claude Noujaim

In Lebanon, the sea flirts with the mountains, and the warmth of the sun is always there, lying on the beach and skiing on mountains at the same day is not uncommon for Lebanese youngsters. Gabriella Geagea grew-up in Beirut, skied on slopes and at the age of six, she rode her first horse.

The Cedars of Lebanon area has witnessed the rise of poets, philosophers, writers, and highly talented skiing champions. Today, a young 14-year-old girl is emerging in the new generation of athletes. Although far away from Bsharre, Geagea parent's hometown in the Cedars of Lebanon, Geagea likes to spend weekends riding or skiing in the more affluent resort of Faraya. Geagea personifies the future in sports for Lebanon. Soft-spoken, reserved, yet assertive, she is a fierce competitor; a new class of champion that excels both in a ski slalom and show jumping.

Geagea was the 2003-04 children's slalom skiing champion. She represented Lebanon twice in international competitions in Italy. Her riding career started with Karim Fares in Fakra at the age of six. It was not long before she started reaping huge dividends from her hard work. The results speak for themselves as she currently ranks 9th in the world in her age category - a true accomplishment for a star in the horse-jumping world in the Middle East.

Geagea's road to California was not obstacle-free. She had to qualify in Fakra, Lebanon. There she achieved a zero-fault in four rounds and won the championship. But the suspense was not over; Geagea had to wait for other qualifiers from other countries in the Middle East. After an anxious wait, she was chosen as the rider to represent Lebanon and the Arab countries at the FEI.

The trip to California was a unique opportunity to Geagea who spoke with great pride and joy about it. It



Geagea in Fakra

started by touring several equestrian clubs in L.A. After attending Hunter competitions she was taken to the Hummingbird Nest ranch in Simi Valley, a private property of 120 acres. "This place was heaven on earth," she said, "the stables resembled five-star hotels with very large grounds. I had never seen anything this big!"

On the first day riders met and were briefed on the events to come and had to draw horses. Every American participant had to provide two horses, one for himself and another for the foreign rider.

There were 16 countries qualified in the finals and 16 Americans (a total of 32 riders representing 13 nations).

There was another draw to form the teams which consisted of two foreigners and two Americans. Geagea's team was called "Speed Demons!"

On the first day, in the welcome competition, Geagea placed 8th. The second day was the first qualifying competition, a jump off, and in spite of dropping the last fence Geagea finished 9th with the fastest time in the group. "On the second qualifying day things got really serious as this was the round to decide on the finalists", she said, "It was "make it or break it" for the youngsters."

"It was the hardest day of my life," Geagea said, "it was very cold, rainy, and the visibility was poor. I rode in the pouring rain and was extremely scared that the horse would slip on the wet grass. However, I was determined to get to the finals and managed to have a clear round in a speed class; I finished 7th, received my prize in the rain,

"As I was riding, my heart was beating faster and faster, but I felt in control. When I dropped a fence I only had my coach's advice in my mind: to go for speed."



Geagea in Fakra on Ricardo

soaking wet, but I was happy and relieved."

The last day was Geagea's last chance to score big. She remembered: "the course was difficult and I was hoping La Crosse (her new acquired Dutch horse) would clear all the jumps and pass the heights. As I was riding, my heart was beating faster and faster, but I felt in control. When I dropped a fence I only had my coach's advice in my mind: to go for speed. I finished 9th in spite of dropping two fences and felt extremely proud". "The best part is that we also won the team competition, it was amaz-

ing!" she added.

In spite of a unique closing ceremony, a parade, and walking behind her country's flag, Geagea did not forget to mention that her staunchest supporters were her family, her aunt, her trainer Karim Fares, and her mentor and Godfather Jihad Ibrahim.

"I simply wish to continue riding and qualifying again next year for the FEI Children's jumping final." She said.

Good riding! Gabriella. We will be rooting for you! ■

# Egyptian riders compete for the first time in the UAE **World Cup** Qualifiers events

By Sami Negm El Din

For the first time ever the Egyptian Riders went to compete at the three World Cup qualifiers events held in the UAE under the umbrella of the UAE Equestrian and Racing Federation from the 5th to the 23rd of January 2005.

What is so special about that is that those three events came as a part of "The Arab League" which was introduced two years ago with the agreement of the FEI (Federation Equestre International) with both the Equestrian Federations of Egypt and Syria and out of the three events agreed upon, only two were held and the third was canceled because of the Iraqi war. Again, the idea was revived by the persistence and great efforts of J.J. Ibrahim from Lebanon after he took the approval of the Arab Equestrian Federation at its last meeting in Doha, Feb. 2004.

The first event took place in August 2004, "Latakia CSI-W" in Syria, then in September 2004 "Faura CSI-W" in Lebanon, and then the November 2004 "CSI-W Alexandria" and "CSI-W Sharm El Sheikh" in Egypt. The three annual events of the UAE came only this year as part of the Arab League, and were held in Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Ajman Equestrian Clubs.

Among the Egyptian riders who participated in the three events were Hady Samy Gabr, Alaa Maysara, Diaa Amr Beshээр and they were joined by two Egyptian riders living in Kuwait, Nayel and Sharaf Nassar. The delegation was presided by Brig. Mohammad Bakir the vice president of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation along with Samir Mahmoud the technical Manager.

The KSA team with all its Olympic riders and famous horses came all the way from Europe and participated with the Egyptian riders. Moreover, the two Qatari teams also came after a two year tour in the European competitions. Beside the Emirates outstanding riders, the event had riders from all the Arab NFs Members of the FEI 7th group, as well as European riders representing Germany, France, Ireland, Ukraine, Canada, Sweden and Bulgaria (most of them are residents in the UAE).

The first event was "CSI"-W Abu Dhabi 5th - 7th of January" which was held on a very nice venue on a grass arena with some permanent natural obstacles including a bank which was used in the Mini Derby on the second day. The French Course Designer Serge Houtman introduced very well balanced courses which grew to the toughest one: the Grand Prix of the last day.

The best result achieved in that event was Gabr winning the Grand Prix after two brilliant faultless rounds with "Al Mandoub". The couple gained the admiration and respect of all officials, riders and spectators. Both Maysara and Beshээр tried their best but the competition was so tough, they were placed in different classes. The real surprise

## The World Cup Sub-Committee Arab League consists of the following Representatives appointed by the NFs involved in the League:

- H.E. Sheikh Hamad bin Ali Al-Thani (QAT)
  - H.E. Sheikh Khaled bin Abdulla Al-Khalifa (BRN)
  - Hussein Hussein (UAE)
  - Samy Negm El Din (EGY)
  - Sami Al Duhami (KSA)
  - Aghiad Kabbani (SYR)
  - Haider Zubi (JOR)
- FEI World Cup Technical Manager: Captain John P. Roche
- FEI World Cup Coordinator: Jihad J. Ibrahim (LIB)

came from the two Nassar brothers, 18-year-old Sharaf and Nayel still under 16 years of age, showed a very high performance style and declared the existence of new Egyptian talents. The young riders were trained by the German rider Joerg Naeve who rode and gained some classes in the three events.

The Second event "CSI"-W Sharjah 12th - 14th of January", was held and organized at the Sharjah Equestrian and Race Club, over a very big Grass arena. Courses were designed by Olaf Petersen who was assisted by the Egyptian Course Designer Atef Shawky. Petersen showed all his professionalism especially on the team competition and the Grand Prix which went to Kamal Bu Hemdan from KSA and Gabr from Egypt came 5th.

On the First day of "Al Adha" feast, we had the vet check for the third and last event, "CSI"-W Ajman 20th - 23rd of January", it was the first international event to be organized at the Ajman Equestrian Club and everybody appreciated the efforts of its active Manager Majed Ali Al Marzooqi who along with his assistants, managed within three weeks to build a new fully equipped two stories Jury box and shaded permanent stables for 120 horses.



Winning KSA team in Sharjah

The Jumping arena miraculously stood the terrible weather after 90 minutes of non-stop heavy rain which left a lake covering half of the arena and the two warm up areas. The show started again after a 40 minute resession during which a new warm up area was fixed and the lake in the jumping arena disappeared.

The Saudi Abdullah Al Sharbatly who was a star at both the Egyptian and the Abu Dhabi events, won the Grand Prix. Gabr came third and was also the winner of the Mini Grand Prix in the previous class. Beside Egyptian riders, Saudis presented real professional performance, Khalid Al Eid, Fahd Al Eid, Ramzy El Dohamy who had some difficulties to get his horses to the shows, Kamal Bu Hamdan, and HRH Prince Abdullah Bin Metab whose performance was very high.

The Qatari riders whom I saw and admired previously in Europe last summer in different events, were led by Sheikh Hamad Bel Ali Al Than and his supporting group, made an excellent performance in most of the classes specially the Rumaiby brothers and Sheikh Ali Bin Khaled Al Thani. Among the Jordanians who were shining as usual, moving around gracefully overwhelming everybody with there politeness and amusing the spectators with their performance, were the Bisharat family: Ibrahim the youngest Olympic rider and Hany the father who did very well specially on the last event in Ajman.

The cheerful Kuwaitis led by the fighting Amazon Noaf Al Eissa and Khalid Al Khoraty, did very well indeed. Al Eissa won two classes and was placed in most of the others, and Ali Al Khoraty too did very well.

The juniors won and were placed on every class

in Abu Dhabi which was their most successful event.

The Bahraini rider Ahmed Mansour presented himself wonderfully and showed real skills especially in the Puissance competition where he shared its first place with the German rider over a wall of 195 m.

Last but not least, we come to the hosting team, riders of the UAE, were all stars and were placed in every class winning some of them, but not as much as they wished for. Sheikha Latifa Al Maktoum who progressed a lot since last year at the Sharjah CSI 2004, made an excellent performance.

The results of the 2005 "CSI-W Qatar 8th-11th of February", "CSI-W Bahrain 23rd-26th February" and "CSI-W Damascus 21st-24th of March" and the postponed event of KSA to be held in Jeddah, will determine the best two riders to represent The Egyptian League in the World Cup Final in USA April 2005.

### The standing list for the Arab League after seven events finds:

- Hany Samy Gabr (EGY) leading with 65 points.
- Abdullah Al Sharbatly (KSA) with 64 points.
- Ibrahim Bisharat (JOR) and Karim Faris (LEB) with 61 points each.
- Alaa Maisara (EGY) with 53 points.
- Kamal Bu Hamdan (KSA) and Ahmad El Sawal (EGY)
- Mohammad Sabry (EGY) and Amr Magdy (EGY).



# Show-jumping in Jordan

By: **Sinan Nashashibi**

Show Jumping started in Jordan in the early 80s, and has become one of the most popular Equestrian disciplines in the country. Since 1989, the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation (RJEF) started organizing the sport nationally and internationally. Since then, Jordan held yearly international events and competitions and its national team started traveling abroad for international competitions and training clinics.

In the early 90s many international events and training clinics were held under the supervision of the RJEF and the Arabian Horse Club. During that time, show-jumping began to improve when Jordan started importing European show-jumping horses.

In 1991 a yearly international competition was first held in AQABA bearing the name of the late H. M. Queen Alia Al-Hussein. Several countries from the region were hosted by the RJEF such as Syria, Lebanon, Qatar, Egypt, U.A.E, while several top European riders participated in the show on 'borrowed horses'. The power behind this yearly show was HRH Princess Haya Bint Al-Hussein.

The first Grand Prix (G.P.) 91 was won by the Jordanian Hani Bisharat on 'San Francisco'. He also won the G.P. in 1992. In 1993 the first nation cup series started in 1993 and Jordan, the host country, won with a three-rider team that included HRH Princess Haya Bint Al-Hussein, Hani Bisharat and Ra'ed Nasser.

The public of AQABA were very keen on attending the event, where the number of spectators reached 8,000 per show.

Many European Show Jumpers proved their efficiency by the results they achieved internationally. Some of them were scouted and re-exported abroad. Breeding show-jumpers started in the mid 90s by using European warm blooded stallions crossing them with local Arabian breeds, thorough breeds and a few European Brood mares.

There are 12 equestrian clubs and centers working under the umbrella of the RJEF specialized in show-jumping. Almost 200 riders, trainers, judges, course designers and vets are registered in the records of the RJEF.

The RJEF organized many Federation Equestrian

Sinan Nashashibi in Alexandria.



# WOMEN OF THE AMAZONS

The first thing that comes to mind when the word horse backriding is brought up, is a man on the back of a horse. However, if we look back into history, we'll find that horsewomen have been very famous since ancient times and their activities in the field need to be highlighted



Women in history used horses as a mean to reach all their goals whether in their daily lives or in war.

Horsewomen are known through out history. Since ancient times, women who rode horses to defend themselves and where they lived, existed in real life stories and in fairytales. The Amazons, fierce warrior women who lived at the fringes of the "civilized" world, were the mythical arch-enemies of the ancient Greeks. Their exploits and lifestyle represented a reversed image of Greek society in which men dominated "weaker" women and prided themselves on military prowess.

According to legends enjoyed by men and women of classical Greece, Amazons were expert horsewomen archers who gloried in hunting and fighting. It was said that they raised their daughters on mares' milk. The word a-mazon probably means 'those who were not breast-fed'.

Their virtues mirrored those of Greek men, personal

bravery, loyalty, and skill in martial arts. But Amazons specialized in ambush and cavalry and iron weapons. Formidable in hand-to-hand combat with swords and battle-axes, they fought the best Greek heroes, including Hercules, Achilles, and Theseus. Scenes of Greek warriors pitted against valiant Amazons were also popular in art.

Various traditions place the Amazon homeland in North Africa or on the steppes of south Russia, but all ancient writers agree that imperialistic armies of bloodthirsty women swept across entire continents until they were finally repelled by the Athenians. The empire-builder Queen Myrina amassed an army of 30,000 horsewomen and 3,000 infantrywomen to cut a swath through what is now Libya and Egypt, through Syria and Asia several great cities, many named for their commanders, were sup-

posed to have been founded by Amazons: Myrina, Cyrene, Smyrna. Women performed war dances, rattling shields and beating the ground to the music of pipes.

Young warriors fell in love with the band of marauding women and proposed marriage. The young were not averse to an alliance but prized their independence. Herodotus records their proud answer: "Our business is with riding and the bow and javelin, we know nothing of women's work. We must be free to hunt and make war." The lovers decided to form a new tribe and vowed to raise both girls and boys to hunt, ride, and do battle. They became the Samaritans, a real tribe of nomadic, warlike horsepeople of southern Ukraine.

In the 1950's, Soviet archaeologists excavated warriors' tombs in the territory of the ancient Samaritans, who had traded with the Greeks in Herodotus's time. Of the graves that contained weapons and armor, nearly a quarter belonged to women. Typically, the young women's skeletons were surrounded by large iron lances, daggers, and spears; bows and triple barbed arrowheads; metal-plated armor; horse trappings. ■



Horse-backriding was also a method of women's self defense.

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# Horse W

The communication between a horse and its rider is one of the key elements of a successful relationship between both. Indeed, when it comes to "cutting" a cow from a thundering herd, chasing down a polo ball at breakneck speed, or developing the discipline necessary to perform the ballet of dressage, horse and rider need to know exactly what the other is thinking. Misunderstandings could literally be fatal.

Such clear communication, however, takes time for both horse and rider to learn. Luckily, a growing number of experienced "horse whisperers" -- men and women who have developed a special knack for getting their point across to their mounts -- are sharing their secrets with riders, through everything from books and videos to conferences and workshops.

It is not necessary to go back very far in time before we find that, for much of the second millennium, the Horse was often regarded as a mystical animal. Certain horses, came to be regarded as Gods! The ability of a man to harness that power to his will rose above the level of the ordinary man in pre-industrial times. And to those who lacked the skills, and were in awe of the ability to control such power, the horseman could all too easily be believed to have mystical knowledge.

For many, 'mystical knowledge' suggested use of the arts of sorcery and witchcraft, and it is not surprising that some particularly skillful trainers were burned as witches.

As a method of training, horse whispering is founded on one of the oldest forms of scientific interpretation: observation. The earliest whisperers spent so much time watching horses in the wild that they were able to discern a kind of horse language in the particularities of horse communication. Yet for a long time their methods were kept secret. The trainer would take the horse, and it would be wild, and he'd take it in the barn and when he'd come out it would be a nice horse. They never knew what he did, so they called it Horse Whispering.

In reality, horse whispering is based on a simple premise, body language. Like dogs, horses are social animals that aim to please. However, because of the often strenuous and inhumane methods that some trainers use to get results, the animal's innate desire for companionship is often masked, causing the horse to turn into a problem horse.

Whispering uses the horse's natural tenden-



# Whisperers

ties toward socialization to restore the animal's trust. Mimicking methods of discipline that horses use in the wild, the trainer uses his physical stance to either drive the horse away from him or allow it to come and connect with him. In physical terms this usually takes place in a round pen, where the trainer uses his arm movements and sometimes a rope to get the horse moving around him in a circle. The method is called gentle, because little to no physical contact is used. Instead, eye contact is heavily relied upon. The horse can read your eye... [it] can see a soft eye or a hard eye.

When the trainer takes an aggressive stance towards the horse, the animal will instinctively flee, feeling that it is being sent away from the herd for something it has done wrong. The horse continues to avoid the trainer until it decides to repent, and asks forgiveness by lowering its head, slowing its pace, and performing a number of other body movements that indicate its submission to the trainer. The trainer has now taken on the position as Alpha Mare in the horse's herd. Once the trainer notices that the horse has accepted its role, he changes his stance, becomes less aggressive, often by changing eye position, or even turning his shoulder to the horse. At this point, the horse's reaction can be dramatic. Ideally, the horse stops moving, turns towards the trainer, even walks to him. This moment is often referred to as joining up, hooking on, or coming in. Whichever term the trainer chooses to use, the effect is the same, a strong bond of trust and devotion that provides a foundation for further training.

While horse whispering is based on a set of founding guidelines, training must be flexible to meet the needs of the individual horse. One has to keep in mind that each horse is different and accordingly not all methods can be used on all horses. The horse determines what we do next. Horses are a lot like people. Their central nervous system is very similar to ours, which is why we bond with them so easily. ■



# Tips

Your horse's health in 5 minutes... And many other things

## Quick Check-up

What is normal for one horse can be a sign of another horse's illness; however, some things are normal for most adult horses. Since every horse is different, it is essential that you know what is usual for your horse so you will know when there is a problem.

To establish that, take the vital signs twice a day for three days and average the readings. Choose various times of the day, but always perform the tests when your horse is at rest. Write them down in your horse's record so if he becomes ill, you will be able to tell your vet the history of the horse's health.

1. Taking the horse's temperature: Insert an animal thermometer under its tail and take the reading after two minutes.

The average range for resting adult horses is 99-100 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperatures increase with exertion, excitement, illness, and hot, humid weather. They decrease with shock and in cold weather.

2. Taking the pulse: You can take your horse's pulse just about anywhere you can feel his heartbeat. But the best spots are from the artery on the side of the jawbone or from the digital artery located on both sides of the horse's leg, just above the fetlock. Count the beats for 15 seconds and then multiply by four to get the rate per minute.

It is best not to let your thumb rest on a horse when you take his pulse as you might pick up the throbbing from your own heartbeat. Normal resting pulse for an adult horse is 30 to 30 beats per minute. They get high or with excitement, pain, nervousness, elevated body temperature, shock, infectious disease and exercise.

3. Measuring the respiration rate: When a horse is exercising heavily it is easy to measure his respiration rate by watching his nostrils dilate and relax (Each cycle counts as one breath). However, this is very hard to detect in a resting horse so the best way is to use a stethoscope on the trachea. With the piece in your ears and facing forwards, press the bell firmly into the underside of the horse's neck, about four inches below the throatlatch. Count 15 breaths (each is measured by one inhalation and one exhalation) for 15 seconds, and multiply by four.

A horse's normal resting respiration rate is usually between 12 and 25 breaths per minute. The ratio of the pulse to the respiration rate is often an indication of the degree of stress in a horse. Depending on the horse's age, his normal resting pulse to respiration ratio should range from 4:1 to 2:1. If the ratio becomes 1:1 to 1:2, the horse is suffering oxygen deprivation which indicates

serious stress.

4. Measuring dehydration: The pinch test is a quick and easy way to evaluate the skin and measure dehydration. Pick up a fold of skin in the neck or shoulder area and pull it away from the horse's body. When you release the skin, it should return almost immediately to its flat position. If the skin remains markedly peaked for two or three seconds, it probably indicates fluid loss.

A "standing tent" of skin for five or 10 seconds indicates moderate to severe dehydration which requires a visit to the vet.

5. Checking the circulatory system: This is done by inspecting the mucous membranes around his eyes and gums for a bright pink color. If the membranes are very pale or white, the horse is suffering from blood loss or circulatory impairment. Bright red gums indicate toxic poison condition if they are grayish blue, the horse probably is in shock. With your horse haltered and an assistant holding him, roll back his upper lip. Using your right hand over the lower jaw, exert thumb pressure on the gum above the upper incisors for about two seconds. This will squeeze the blood temporarily out of the blood capillaries as a spot on the gum. When you remove your thumb, a circular white spot will remain. Within one second, it should return to normal. If this capillary refill takes five to 10 seconds, your horse is showing signs of capillary impairment. ■

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## Immunity Through Nutrition

By Dr. Ashraf El Kalla

Supplements can enhance a stressed or ill horse's immune system, but if they are not needed, there is no need to use them.

The immune system protects the body against infection or disease by producing antibodies and cellular responses that destroy invading bacteria and viruses.

A healthy immunity system results from a balanced diet that contains the correct amount and proportions of antioxidants and nutrients, particularly vitamins A, B, C, E, and trace minerals Zinc.

Without a balanced diet, deficiencies occur, adversely affecting the health of the immune cell. When the

immune cells are not healthy, the immune function is decreased. With decreased immunity, the body is less able to fight infections or other pathogenic agents resulting in increased risk of disease and infection.

The averages during stress, transport, and competition are:

Vit. C	10 mg/day
Vit. E	1000 IU/day
Vit. A	1000 IU/day

\* Vit. B supplements are very good for liver diseases ■

## Passage

By Emad Zaghloul

1. This is a measured, very collected, very elevated and very cadenced trot. It is characterized by a pronounced engagement of the quarters, a more accentuated flexion of the knees and hocks, and the graceful elasticity of the movement. Each diagonal pair of feet is raised and returned to the ground alternately, with cadence and a prolonged suspension.

2. In principle, the height of the toe of the raised foreleg should be in level with the middle of the cannon bone of the other foreleg. The toe of the raised hind leg should be slightly above the fetlock joint of the other hind leg.

3. The neck should be raised and gracefully arched with the poll as the highest point and the head close to the vertical. The horse should remain light and soft «on the bit» and be able to do smoothly from the passage to the piaffe and vice versa, without apparent effort and without altering the cadence, the impulsion being always lively and pronounced.

4. Irregular stops with the hind legs, swinging the forehead of the quarters from one side to the other as well as jolky movements of the forelegs or the hind legs or dragging the hind legs are serious faults. ■

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## In Memory of... Paul Darragh

Well known Irish show-jumper Paul Darragh has died, aged 81, at his home in Tara, County Meath. It is believed Darragh, who represented Ireland 54 times in Nations Cup events, suffered a heart attack.

After gradually withdrawing from international competitions, Darragh moved into training. He tutored Princess Haya who became the first Jordanian to compete at the Olympics in the Sydney 2000 Games.

Darragh was one of Ireland's leading International Show-Jumpers. From an early age, Darragh always wanted to ride show jumpers as a career and spent a season in England with Trevor Banks to learn all about the show-jumping trade. He then returned to Ireland to join Kellell Stable in County Kildare, and rode Pele to win the British Show-Jumping Derby at Hickstead in 1975. He went on then to ride the famous Heather Honey, who was his mount in the World Championships in Aachen in 1978.

Darragh has won over 50 Nations Cup appearances for Ireland, has been Irish Champion and competed at Olympics and World Championships.

## Hussein Fahmy...

Hussein Fahmy took his BSC in chemical engineering in 1967 from Saint Mark, a French school in Alexandria. He worked in the oil industry for two years. In 1970, Fahmy traveled to Paris and worked in the International Company, Good Year, as an industrial marketing engineer for five years. He opened various markets all around Europe for the company and received a scholarship from the French government in industrial marketing. He then returned to Egypt and joined the marketing departments in several Egyptian firms, during the same time he gave lectures in industrial marketing in the American University in Cairo for another five years. His final post was consultant engineer for several years.

Aside of his work, Fahmy was a member of the council of the Arabic Equestrian Federation, and the Egyptian Equestrian Federation, which represented Egypt in several big events such as the International Equestrian Conference, in Buckingham palace in 1986 where Fahmy met prince Philip and princesses Anne. Fahmy also represented Egypt in 1987 in France meeting with Jacques Chirac who was the prime minister at the time.

Fahmy had the largest share in resolving the problem

## Hussein Khairy...

Born in December 1920, was a talented rider as a young mayor at the royal cavalry. He was a gifted polo rider too.

Hussein Khairy was twice vice president of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation and later on, became its president. He was brother of Mohamed Khairy the Olympic rider who represented Egypt in several international events.

Khairy died in August 2004 and was a popular well loved figure in the sport. ■

Back in 1969 Darragh won an Individual Silver Medal at the Junior European Championships in Dinard in France and was an Individual Bronze Medal winner the following year when the Championships were held in St. Moritz in Switzerland. He obtained the coveted Team Gold Medal when the junior Europeans were held



at Hickstead in 1971 when he rode a double clear with Woodpecker and also at the same Championships obtained his second European Silver Medal.

One of Darragh's greatest achievements was being a member of the formidable 1977-79 triple Aga Khan-winning quartet when he successfully teamed up with Eddie Macken, Con Power and James Kernan. ■

of Egyptian horses that were banned to travel outside Egypt because of the African disease. Today people owe it all to him for being able to transport their horses outside Egypt with no difficulties.

Fahmy had a simple life. He used to socialize with people of different classes. He loved to see new young riders in the sport and encouraged all riders of all ages to continue practicing. Fahmy has two daughters whom he loved very much and grandsons with whom he spent time planting the seeds of horses riding in their hearts to which they are very thankful. Although Fahmy, an example of wisdom, generosity, simplicity and a horse lover through out his life passed away, he will always be in our hearts and the hearts of many who knew him.

His grandson,

Ahmed Ragab. ■







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