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HEAD OFFICE & SHOWROOM: 32 MICHEL BAKHOUM ST. DOKKI, GIZA, EGYPT

TEL: +202 33365608 / 33365302 / 33365329 FAX: (+202) 33365257- MOB: (+202) 0173821717

SHOWROOM: 114 OMAR BEN KHATTAB ST. HELIOPOLIS, CAIRO, EGYPT TEL: +202 24173284 / 24173297 MOB: (+202) 0110118377

VIEW POINT

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Dear readers,

Development is quite a challenging term, yet when we discuss for example show jumping development or more specifically, show jumping development in the Middle East or the North African region, we have to consider structured and planned forms of development so that we can try to integrate more of that into the future. The Global Champions Tour Final held in Qatar in 2009 was by all means a very structured development for 2 consecutive years. The effort in organisation, levels of performance and prize money was unmatched; well done Qatar...bravo Jan Tops.

Further development was also apparent in Morocco where another fabulous event was held including many equestrian disciplines. Egypt with the Sharm El Sheikh International Show Jumping Championships was another booming and well-structured event in the North African region. On another note, Al Zahraa International Arabian Horse Championships added another notch to its level of structured development by having Mercedes Benz as its main sponsor this year. Libya and yet another structured achievement with its Show Jumping Championships on October 23rd. Abu Dhabi held its Hunting & Equestrian Exhibition adding to it a performance by Britain's Royal Household Cavalry Musical Ride. In addition, the Arabian Passion International Equestrian Exhibition and its splendid success, especially with the drawing competition for children, added to the 2009 achievements.

It appears that 2009 has been about many successes, and so we fruitfully end the year and Horse Times's 12th anniversary with the best from the Arab region and more profiles. Ulli Kasselmann and a brief but great fun theme, Rolf-Goran Bengtsson and another subtle and calculated success story, Dr. Karim El Sobky and Mohamed Mansour seeking perfection, Dr. Mohamed Elsherbini and training, along with more on talents in photography.

Dear friends, it is with great pride that we present to you the success story of Dr. Angelika Trabert who moves my heart with her enormous will and great inner strength. I hope we all learn from her....

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and the happiest New Year.

Sincerely,

Khaled Assem
Chairman

Chairman

Khaled Assem
khaledassem@horsetimesegypt.com

Managing Editor

Nada H. Abdelmoniem
nadahusseini@horsetimesegypt.com

Executive Manager

Azza El Sharkawy

Writers & Contributors

Khaled Assem
Lubna Dairanieh
Merit Fanous
Dr. Mohamed Elsherbini
Nada H. Abdelmoniem
Rafael Gonzalez
Sandra Adams

Design & Layout

Ehab M. El Shemy
ehabmahmoud@horsetimesegypt.com

Photography

Ahmed Shawkat
Atef Murgan
Claude Stemmelin
Cymon Taylor
Hossam Fadl
Husam Ikremawi
Jacques Toffi
Janne Bugtrup
Julia Rau
Luis Alonso
Nasr Aldin Kahiel

Financial Consultants

Ismail El Sily
Mohamed A.Mawgoud

Distribution Officer

Yousef El Senousy

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By Cymon Taylor

Head Office:

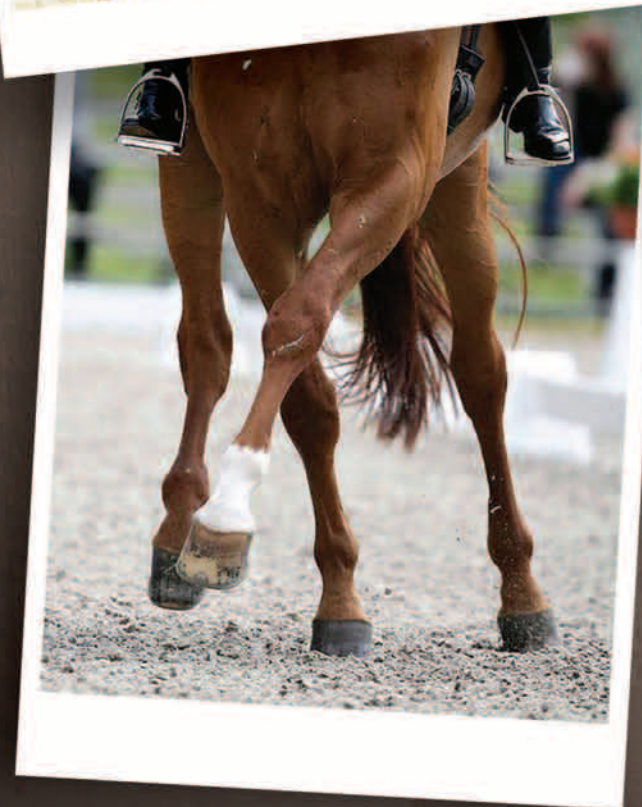
Equicare
2, Bahgat Ali Street, Zamalek, Cairo-Egypt
Tel & Fax: +2-02-27356939 / +2-02-27354348

Enquiries:

info@horsetimesegypt.com
www.horsetimesegypt.com

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TOP SPORT HORSES



KHALED ASSEM & PETER FRIJSINGER

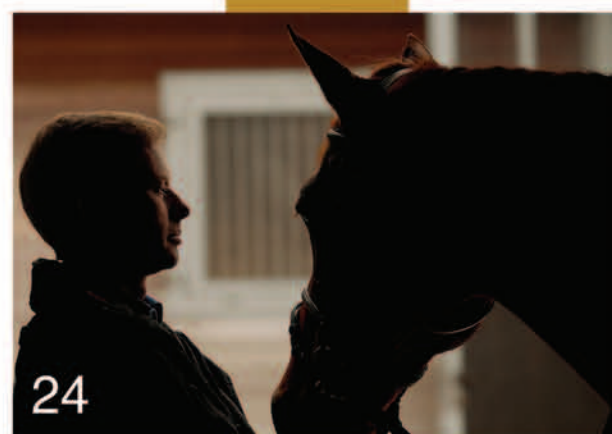
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Mob: +2 0101114815
Tel: +202 27356939 +202 27354348
khaledassem@horsetimesegypt.com

My Way Sport Horses Ltd.
Tel & Fax: +31650583830 +31475534896
frijsingersporthorses@home.nl

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THE GLOBAL CHAMPIONS TOUR FINAL IN QATAR



THE NEXT BIG THING

By Khaled Assem



STARTING WITH A MAGNIFICENT DAY BENEATH THE SUNNY SKIES OF QATAR, THE GLOBAL CHAMPIONS TOUR (GCT) FINAL PURELY DEMONSTRATED THE MAGNIFICENT QUALITY OF PARTICIPANT INTERNATIONAL RIDERS. WITH A PREVIOUS WORLD-CLASS RIDER AND PRESENTLY RENOWNED COURSE DESIGNER, CONRAD HOMFELD INTIMIDATED ANY WHO WISHED TO WIN A GENEROUS SUM FROM TOTAL PRIZE MONEY OF 1,395,000,00 EUROS INCLUDING A GCT GRAND PRIX FINAL OF 900,000,00 EUROS AND AN ADDITIONAL GOLD HORSE HEAD SCULPTURE WORTH 8,000 EUROS. THE ROUND ARENA WAS SET TO PRESENT AN OPENING FOR A HORSE AND RIDER WORTHY OF

ANY ADDITIONAL CAPITAL ALONG THE EXCEPTIONAL DISPLAY OF FENCES, BEAUTIFUL FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS STYLED BY THOMAS DIETZ COMPANY, BLUEMEN ENK, AND A VERY PROFESSIONALLY DESIGNED EQUESTRIAN FACILITY.

THROUGHOUT THE 4-DAY EVENT, I MET AND SPOKE TO SEVERAL OFFICIALS AND RIDERS WHOM NOT SURPRISINGLY, HAD VIEWS TO SHARE ON THE EVENT ITSELF AS WELL AS ON QATAR AND THE PROSPEROUS FUTURE OF SHOW JUMPING IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE GCT IS AN INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENT OF THE HIGHEST LEVEL INDEED, AND QATAR IS RICH IN CULTURE AND PRESERVATION OF ITS HERITAGE.



JAN TOPS, NETHERLANDS

President of the GCT, in cooperation with the Qatar Equestrian Federation:

"I've always been very passionate about show jumping and I've always loved business since I was very young; my priority was always buying and selling horses. When I was riding I was always thinking of how to improve the sport to the level it really deserves and after 30 years of competing at all the international shows, knowing all the events and all the organisers, I came up with the

idea of the GCT. As for the final taking place in Qatar, I've always known that the Middle East is very important and I have a lot of friends here. The Middle East has been an area with tremendous growth in the past couple of years and I'm very well aware of that, there are some riders with a lot of potential and that's why we are integrating it and some of its riders in our tour."



RASHID BIN ALI AL MANSORI

President of Qatar Equestrian Federation:

"Today we celebrate the enormous success of the GCT as it once again returns to Doha for the final competition of these world class series. Under the bright lights of this spectacular arena at the Qatar Equestrian Federation, the final

rounds will bring out the best show jumpers in the world competing for record prize money and the honour of taking home the gold medal. The Qatar Equestrian Federation is proud to have been the vital part of this prestigious

worldwide tour. The continuing support and attention of HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani to all sports lays the foundation for Qatar hosting major equestrian events and world class competitions."

FRED VAN LIEROP, NETHERLANDS

Managing Director of the GCT:

"One of the articles in our contracts with countries we work with is to integrate the country's culture in the spirit of the show. I believe that all the riders need to get the feeling of where

they are, with the media putting a special emphasis on the issue of culture and its importance of creating a successful event. The public and the viewers all over the world should feel

that from different effects like the design of the fences and the general decorations at the show."



ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11TH, Olympic champion Eric Lamaze was the first to spark the scoreboard in a time of 67.77 on his mare 'Take Off'. Bernardo Alves riding 'Kingly du Reverdy' almost caught up at 68.82 but it took a former triple World Cup winner to over take the Olympic winner; Rodrigo Pessoa who needs no introduction, riding 'Cazino',

was beyond sharp with great rhythm and finesse with a time of 66.59. Qatar's Ali Al Rumaihi finished 11th out of 37 starters on 'Ravena'. Sheikh Ali Al Thani was 14th on his new horse 'Santos'.

In the second class, Conrad Homfeld was just a little too kind with 10 riders clear out of the 37 starters. In the jump off, the oxer

out of the double took out both Eric Lamaze on 'Hickstead' and Robert Whitaker on 'Darco' out of the winning picture and Kevin Staut on 'Le Prestige de St. Lois' hit the second last. On the other hand, the Irish combination Jessica Kurten and 'Cosma' were an unbeatable couple. Albert Zoer came in 2nd and Daniel Etter in 3rd place.



SHIEKH ALI AL THANI, QATAR:

"It is a tremendous success to host such a huge event here in Qatar, I have to thank HH Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani for his support and for making it possible to have such facilities here. I jumped a good round with 4 faults in the Open Championship of Qatar which qualified me for the 2010 World Equestrian Games. I have 2 good horses and I will concentrate on jumping in the Arab League and then I will return to be based in Belgium for the spring."



JESSICA KURTEN, IRELAND:

"It's my second time here and it changed a lot in a positive way. Everything is made for the rider to feel the importance of this competition. The stadium is great and looks just perfectly organised for such a big final. From the beginning, we feel we are in a championship that will be hard but very exciting which is good for our motivation! As for 'Cosma', she was a star just when everyone was thinking I was coming on young horses!"



ALBERT ZOER, NETHERLANDS:

"The 2008 final was very good and the championships continue to stay in its same levels of competitiveness. I did take one stride too many into the last, but I am getting better.... Last week I got beaten by four tenths of a second, today though, just 3!"

DANIEL ETTER, SWITZERLAND:

"It is great and of course nice to win money on the first day. I think the accommodation for horses is good but for us, it is super nice. The hotel is amazing!"



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH: Six horses out of 33 who started for the Grand Prix qualifier, qualified. Albert Zoer riding 'Sam', Marcus Ehning and 'Sabrina', a daughter of his champion horse 'Sandro Boy', Daniel Deusser on 'Aboyeur', Robert Whitaker and 'Draco', Denis Lynch on 'Nabab's Son' and Jessica Kurton on 'Castle Forbes Myrtille Paulois'. The golden Irish couple

won with Denis Lynch in 2nd place and Robert Whitaker 3rd.

Talking to most of the riders, it was very interesting to know some more about their personal experiences along their paths to success and more of their thoughts on show jumping in the Middle East where the sport is progressing, and how should we shape or structure this development.



DENIS LYNCH, IRELAND:

"I am very happy to have qualified for the GCT final as winning here in 2008 was a great experience. And I also knew that organisation would be super. It has improved given that all the best shows do, and the GCT has certainly lived up to the standards."

RODRIGO PASSOA, BRAZIL:

"A couple of years back more countries in the Middle East were competing at big levels starting with Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Jordan. These are good signs that the Middle East is developing well. There are talented riders who come to Europe to train and improve their skills. I believe that their countries have great things to offer as

what we see here. Personally, I think that if a rider wants to seriously stand out, stay competitive and motivated, he has to stay focused and work hard. I would want to do what it takes to stay at a good level and not fall back and become a tourist, so I really mean to give it my all."





© Cymon Taylor

SERGIO ALVAREZ MOYA, SPAIN:

"I'm happy to be here at this event participating with many experienced riders. I always looked up to John Whitaker, he is amazing with the way he can ride every horse and he'll never get old as a rider. I rode in the Netherlands for 7 years with Albert Voorn who is a super trainer; he is very good in training and you can learn a lot from him. He always taught me to keep thinking of the rhythm and the position on the horse. If you are riding against the clock it doesn't mean that you have to be fast with your body but you just have to speed up the horse, you have to stay cool and ride the same."

BEN MAHER, GREAT BRITAIN:

"The show is fantastic, excellent atmosphere, and everything is 5 stars; the stables, the arena, everything is just fabulous. This is my first time in the Middle East and I feel the people are keen to develop the sport; given more interaction with Europe, it'll go better for both."



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MARCO KUTSCHER, GERMANY:

"The show was really good; I was also here last year and I have to say it keeps getting better. The facilities for both the horses and riders are excellent. The only thing that is missing so far, is that I have not won that much!"

CONRAD HOMFELD, USA:

"When I think of designing a course, I think of safety first, that of the horse and of the rider. On the other hand, any course designer

wants it all; an exciting and challenging class along with good and positive results as well as a level of difficulty to match the prize

money. Consequently I consider all the factors along with the environment and the setting; I put all those elements in perspective when I work."

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH, THE FINAL ROUND AT THE HEIGHT OF 1.60M WITH A JUMP OFF AND PRIZE MONEY OF 900,000,00 EUROS

ROGER-YVES BOST, FRANCE, *before the class:*

"The class today is very big; it's like those at the Olympic Games. But classes with that kind of money are usually very difficult. Conrad has put a very big triple combination at the end of the course when horses are more tired. If my stallion jumps like he did yesterday, maybe he'll do well today."



ROBERT WHITAKER, GREAT BRITAIN, *before the class:*

"It's a very big course! Quite technical, and going to be very difficult; coming out of the combination is very short, which I think is going to cause lots of problems. Also the double, it's a very tall vertical. I think horses like 'Hickstead' and 'OkiDoki' have a very good chance at this level."





▲ During the jump off of the final round, Michel Robert riding Kellemoi de Pepita jumped clear in 49.76 seconds to come in 1st place, followed by Belgium's Jos Lansink riding Valentina van t Heike jumping clear in 49.89 seconds to come in 2nd. Brazil's Alvaro de Miranda riding AD Picolien Zeldenrust came in 3rd with 4 faults in 46.52 seconds.

▼ Michel Robert's philosophy is to keep his horses away from any kind of medication, as well as himself - staying true and fair to the concept that stands behind the sport



ALVARO DE MIRANDA, BRAZIL, after the final round:

"It was really impressive to be here in that beautiful round arena. It was great for the horses, riders and sponsors. One year later, something that was very good became excellent. It's important to have shows on this side of the world. I am proud to be here as the energy is very good. The course today was very hard, Olympic Games level and very cleverly put by Conrad. You could do faults everywhere especially the last line, water jump to combination, and the distance was very difficult."

THE WINNER OF THE FINAL OF THE GCT IS MICHEL ROBERT ON HIS MARE 'KELLEMOI DE PEPITA' WHO WAS SIMPLY BREATH TAKING WITH HIS GRACIOUS TECHNIQUE AND AMAZING FINESSE . HIS JUMP OFF WAS AS REGULAR AS A HEARTBEAT ALL; A RIDER WITH 2 BOOKS UNDER HIS COAT AND DECADES OF EXPERIENCE THAT AT HIS AGE, IS UNRIVALLED.

MICHEL ROBERT, FRANCE, after winning:

"My horse was simply very good today. She's 11 and I'm 60. I always try to follow a very natural way so I give my horse no medication or treatment at all, just food, water and the same goes for me. I try to have a simple uncomplicated approach to everything I do with my horses and my life. I believe that everyone needs to have a philosophy; we need to know all the time why we are here and for what purpose, to take consciousness of everything around and in our minds. I am very happy today to have won with no medication what so ever so I can give the world a message of how we should treat our horses. They need more space and more understanding."

JAN TOPS, after the final round:

"I am happy with what I have seen tonight, a spectacular level of competition. Fantastic performance by all the riders! An outstanding facility comparable to the top ones worldwide and incredible cooperation from the Qatar Equestrian Federation. This is fantastic for the sport; the best horses, Olympic level of show jumping and great performances." **HT**

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SALON DU CHEVAL D'EL JADIDA 2009

TIMELESS BEAUTY PRICELESS HERITAGE

FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, MOROCCO'S TRADITIONS HAS ENRICHED THE LIVES OF ITS PEOPLE AND OTHERS, NOT WITH JUST THEIR LUSCIOUS FOOD AND FASCINATING HISTORY, BUT WITH PRESERVED RICH CULTURE, AUTHENTIC EQUESTRIAN PRIDE, AND HORSES THAT MAY NOT BE PRETTY TO THE EYES OF MANY, BUT A SYMBOL OF DELIGHT TO THE HEARTS OF OTHERS.

By Nada H. Abdelmoniem







▲ The Spanish Riding School performing to visitors of the exhibition ▲ Jean Francois Pignon

Initiated in 2008, Salon du Cheval d'El Jadida is hosted under the Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI and his positive presence and support to the equestrian industry, and organised by the Association of Salon du Cheval, whose president is HRH Prince Moulay Abdellah Alaoui. Under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, the second 2009 successful edition of the event took place on October 21st 100 kilometres away from the capital Casablanca in a small city named El Jadida. El Jadida, an agricultural city thick with beautiful forests and on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea, hosted visitors at Sofitel Golf Royale, a popular resort that offers the most inviting and wondrous beds and warm staff hospitality to exhibition visitors and European golfers. The ride to the enormous venue would be a drive by forests on the left, and the beach on the right where horse lovers would go racing every morning. The city of El Jadida has become famous in the national equestrian tradition where more than 1,000 riders from different regions of the

Kingdom gather. Dedicated entirely to highlight the importance of the horse, the event displayed a holistic programme aimed at gathering and federating the equine industry as well as entertaining the public.

The exhibition was built over a vast area of nearly 25,000 square meters with areas designated for indoor competitions, race courses, Tbourida, pole of exhibitions, press area, and a food court. The Tbourida alone covered a spot of 9 hectares attracting the interest of more than 15,000 visitors who applauded the celebration of their national traditions. The exhibition strived to become a reference event for those who are passionate about the horse, and indeed, it did.

Further to the outdoor Tbourida show, Anglo Hispanic and Sidi Brini horse breeds were on display next to a first ever Barb, Anglo Arab and Pure Arabian horse show that took place indoors. Also indoors, 1 star show jumping competitions saw participations from international and

Olympic riders from Spain, France, Belgium, Portugal, Italy, and Morocco. Not to say the least, entertaining stunt shows got off including the most beautiful and composed performance by the Spanish Riding School (Ecole Royale Andalouse des Arts Equestres de Jerez de la Frontera) led by the Spanish silver Olympic medallist Rafael Soto. Performances illustrating the Doma Vaquera, Jean Francois Pignon, the Cavaleric Pieric, traditional Hungarian performances, Laurent Jahan and the Moroccan Yassini Equestrian Farm show, also took place.

The presence of 50 private Moroccan exhibitors, 10 institutional exhibitors and 12 international exhibitors kept some crowds inside while many others were preoccupied with show jumping competitions. The exhibit stand of the Qatari Racing Federation, constructed as a mammoth horseshoe won the visitor's attention more than any other stand, and the indoor loud sounds of air-whipping demonstrations done by members of the Hungarian army, drew crowds in further.

▼ A bow to the audience by the Cavaleric Pieric

▼ Traditional Hungarian performance



THE TBOURIDA OF MOROCCO (FANTASIA):

The Tbourida represents the oldest equestrian culture in Morocco; it is a perfect example of their preserved horse traditions.

Riders wearing traditional Moroccan attire and mounting Barb Horses charge along a straight path at the same speed to form a 1-line race. At the end of the race (about 200 meters from the start line), all riders fire their gunpowder rifles in celebration of victory. This old-time and present performance is inspired from historical wartime attacks of Berber and desert knights against the French colonisation. French trenches used to be under ground, leading Moroccan knights to fire their rifles downwards, only after independence, shots are fired upwards in remembrance of victory. The difficulty of the performance is synchronisation during horse acceleration, especially during firing, as only one single united shot should be heard. Fantasia horses are well bred and well groomed Barb stallions whose bodies are complete muscle; no ordinary workhorse can participate in the Fantasia.



Today, the Fantasia is a celebrated cultural art as well as a form of martial art. Each region in Morocco has one or several Fantasia groups/regions called 'Jahawia', totalling thousands of horse riders nationwide. Performances are usually demonstrated during local seasonal, cultural or religious festivals. During the exhibition, it was performed daily throughout the 6-day event for both tourists and the thousands of visitors.

THE BARB HORSE OF MOROCCO:

Barb horses are a breed of North African countries and Morocco in specific - and this year's exhibition witnessed the crowning of the Barb horse by organising its first national show. Barb horses are part of Moroccan heritage and environment. It is smart, balanced, strong, and a flexible breed that can be used for all kinds of equestrian competitions. They are big in size, however they can endure the heavy weight of Moroccan saddles. They can be compared to Polo horses; they are very flexible when starting, and quite agile when racing. Today, the Barb horses are an internationally accredited breed.

ECOLE ROYALE ANDALOUSE DES ARTS EQUESTRES DE JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA:

For the first time in Morocco, Olympic medallist Rafael Soto led an extraordinary performance to astounding music on classical dressage at this year's event. Tickets were on sale and the indoor arena that held more than 6,000 spectators roared with applause at the splendour of the performance.

Soto is the director of the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art in Jerez, Spain. He has been a rider on the Spanish Olympic Team since 1996, which was placed 5th in the 2000 Sydney Olympics - and 7th in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. He won a 5th place individual award in the 2001 Varden European Championships. Riding 'Invasor', he helped the Spanish team come in 4th place during the 1999 European Equestrian Games.



▲ Tbourida horsemen lining up for a race

▼ Tbourida horsemen firing their rifles - only 1 single united shot is heard



▼ Rafael Soto led the Spanish Riding School in a spectacular performance



SHOW JUMPING:

For the first time, show jumping competitions kicked off during the exhibition with participations from 30 Moroccan riders and more from Europe. At a short notice, Marcel Rozier was invited by the President of the event HRH Prince Moulay Abdellah Alaoui to organise the competitions. International course designer Serge Houtmann designed courses of 1.40 and 1.45m for riders to compete for total prize money of 98,000 Euros. In the presence of HRH Princess Lalla Amina Alaoui, President of the Moroccan Equestrian Federation, HRH Princess Aisha Alaoui, and the Minister of Agriculture and Fishing, 30 riders from Morocco alone competed along side European Olympic medallists. For HRH Prince Moulay Hassan Trophy, wins went to France's Philippe Rozier at 1st place, Portugal's Luis Sabino at 2nd, and Herve Godignon, also from France, at 3rd place. For HRH King Mohamed the Sixth Trophy, wins went to Herve Godignon coming in 1st place, Philippe Rozier at 2nd, and Morocco's Ahmed Derghal at 3rd place.

With the presence of institutions such as the Royal Society for the Encouragement of the Horse, both on a regional and national scale, the event represented an excellent platform for a high-level exchange of views. The international hall with stands from Hungary and France amongst others, and the regional hall highlighted developments throughout Morocco and its artisans in preserving Moroccan culture. **HT**

MIDDLE: Philippe Rozeier, Show Jumping Grand Prix winner

BOTTOM RIGHT: The beauty of the Arabian horse show attracted the crowds by the thousands

Pictures courtesy of:
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TEL: +202 33365608 / 33365302 / 33365329 FAX: (+202) 33365257- MOB: (+202) 0173821717

SHOWROOM: 114 OMAR BEN KHATTAB ST. HELIOPOLIS, CAIRO, EGYPT TEL: +202 24173284 / 24173297 MOB: (+202) 0110118377



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**TAG Heuer is pleased to introduce their new timing device
« MiniTimer HL 440 »**



The Minitimer HL 440 is a professional timing system with 4 inputs using the same « high technology » as our Chronoprinter 540. It is an essential general-purpose timer for many applications.

The HL 440 is a very high precision “time base”, ideal to communicate bi-directionally with a computer.

With the integrated matrix LCD display the user is able to view all data and information.

The Minitimer can be connected to our Martel HL200 printer to enable printing of all the sequential timing information.

Thanks to the integrated keyboard, the HL 440 can be used at the start line of a race such as (Ski) as a numerical-keyboard to identify the competitor’s number, which will be transmitted to the timekeeper with the complete timing information (PC or Printer).

It is also useful for events which do not necessarily require log printing of times such as (Jumping) and is also useful as a backup timer.

The Minitimer can be connected to a second system or to a Chronoprinter 540 to provide up to 8 input channels.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

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Timing resolution (printer – PC)	user selectable from 1 sec to 1/100'000 sec
Memory	30'000 times and 99 timing sessions
Sequential N°/ competitor N°	from 1 to 9'999
Input	Four banana jack inputs
Output	RS232 to PC or Printer
Display	Matrix LCD display
Time Base	Thermo-compensated quartz 12.8 MHz
Precision:	+/- 0.5 ppm at 25° C +/- 1.5 ppm between -30°C and +75°C
Internal power supply	Accumulator Li-ion



PERISCOPE ON ROLF-GORAN BENGTSSON

COUNTRY: SWEDEN
DATE OF BIRTH: 2 JUNE 1962
STAR SIGN: GEMINI

By HT Staff

A CALM INDIVIDUAL WITH BOTH FEET ON THE GROUND AS HE HAS MENTIONED. WHEN YOU READ THROUGH HIM AND HIS BUOYANT VOICE, AND ANALYSE HIS WINS, YOU REALISE HIS ENORMOUS CAPACITY OF MENTAL TOUGHNESS. A SIMPLE HUMAN BEING WITH A VERY CLEAR VISION OF LIFE; WHAT MAKES HIM HAPPY AND MAKES HIM SAD. THE ONLY THING HE FEELS HE LACKS IS PROBABLY A LITTLE BIT OF VICIOUSNESS WHEN IT COMES TO GRABBING AND ACQUIRING WHAT HE WANTS IN THIS WORLD.

THIS IS A BIT OF ROLF-GORAN BENGTSSON WHO WAS FIRST COACHED BY HIS FATHER SVEN-ERIK BENGTSSON AT A VERY YOUNG AGE AND GREW UP TO STUDY MECHANICAL ENGINEERING.

CURRENTLY RESIDING IN GERMANY SO AS TO BE IN THE CENTRE OF EUROPE WHERE COMPETITIONS ARE MAINLY HELD, ROLF IS FOCUSING ON MAINLY ONE THING IN LIFE; RIDING. ACHIEVEMENTS OF ROLF INCLUDE MEMORABLE WINS SUCH AS THE BRONZE INDIVIDUAL MEDAL AND TEAM SILVER MEDAL IN THE 2001 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ARNHEM, NETHERLANDS, AND THE SILVER TEAM MEDAL AT THE 2004 ATHENS OLYMPIC GAMES. WHEN HE WON HIS SILVER MEDAL AT THE 2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS, IT WAS THE FIRST OLYMPIC INDIVIDUAL MEDAL FOR SWEDEN SINCE CLARENCE VON ROSEN WON BRONZE AT LOS ANGELES IN 1932.

Education, family support & children:

When I started to ride of course I went to school, and my parents supported me very much by keeping ponies and horses at home. My father trained me for many years and he has had the most influence on me. Really, he was the one to build the base of my riding career. My mother on the other hand was there for me all the time – she has spent a lot of time with me. After school I got into the business of land machinery and mechanics, so I worked in the day and rode my horses after work. I do not have any children, but would love to have some of course (smiling).

Riding, knowing a horse & techniques:

At about 10 years old, I started to ride at home in a farm where I lived with my parents. My father was a rider himself, so he helped me a lot during my first riding ladder. To learn much about my horse, I try to determine his temperament and then I try to ride him in a way I would see best for him. Horses are very much like chalk and cheese, very different creatures, so sometimes you have to change the way of riding from what you initially thought would be best just so as to proceed.

Stall Bengtsson & Kristoffersen, training & keeping fit:



On training others, I do very little of that; the training of our students is 95% done by my partner Bo Kristoffersen. I concentrate on the shows, a factor our whole team tries to support. Bo and I have been managing matters and the training stable here in Breitenburg, Germany since 2003; we also do some horse sales, but most of our business is the showing and training of other riders who come here for a short or long period to be an element of our concept. On my training, all the competition horses in our stable are taken out 2 to 3 times a day; we ride them, they go in the walker and/or on the paddock. To keep them in good mood, we also take them to our cantering course or for a walk in the woods.

Trainer & sponsorship:

I normally train on my own or sometimes with Bo Kristoffersen. My main sponsor is the Mexican stud Club Hipico La Silla and its owner, Alfonso Romo. Mr. Romo puts some very good horses at my disposal, and we always have 8 to 10 horses of his in our stable; some of them are top show horses, and some of them are younger horses of his own breed, which sometimes are also for sale.

Favourite horses:

The most important horses in my riding career are Paradiso, Roofs, Pialotta, MacKinley, Tepic la Silla, Quintero la Silla, Casall la Silla and Ninja la Silla. As you can see, all these horses were/are my favourite horses!

National & international completions - happiness & disappointments:

I like CHIO Aachen very much, and I really would like to win the Grand Prix there. This year it was pretty close; I was clear in the first round and also clear in the second, but not fast enough I am afraid, and so that was a little disappointing. I also like CSI Monterrey, Mexico which is an impressive show with a very pleasant set up. I have been there several times, and it is really nice. Actually, the sea side of Monterrey is one of my favourite destinations.

Future aspirations:

The next big goal is to participate at the 2010 World Equestrian Games in Kentucky. I never won a medal at a World Championship, so this is what I am aiming for. It is a long process to prepare for such a big event; you start 9 to 10 months ahead of time to pick out the important shows for your championship horse, and then you try to reach the peak at the right time, and so I am trying my best in preparations. More to the point, I hope to keep on riding good horses and go to exciting and interesting shows.

Participating in FEI World Cup Arab League shows:

I did once participate with my horse MacKinley at CSI Dubai held under the patronage of HRH Princess Haya bint Al Hussein back in 2006 I think; it was very nice, and certainly, I would love to visit and participate at shows held in Egypt and the Arab region. I spoke once to Andre Sakakini about participating on borrowed horses, however I do not think it would serve the purpose for my sponsor, wouldn't you agree?!

More about Rolf:

I like to do a bit of skiing in the winter time, but generally I have very little time to do other things besides riding. I try to meet with friends now and then in the evening, but really, going on a holiday hardly ever happens (smiling). I love to drink sparkling apple juice when thirsty, and surely would appreciate a glass of good red wine. I am not a fan of country music, boogie, or blues, but a fan of good music in general. I am also not really a follower of other sports besides show jumping, but a supporter of Sweden in football, skiing, ice hockey and a little bit of Formula 1. If I do something good to others and see them well happy and appreciative to what I did, is what makes me happy – and doing something and having it end up going the opposite way I planned it to go, is what makes me sad. **HT**



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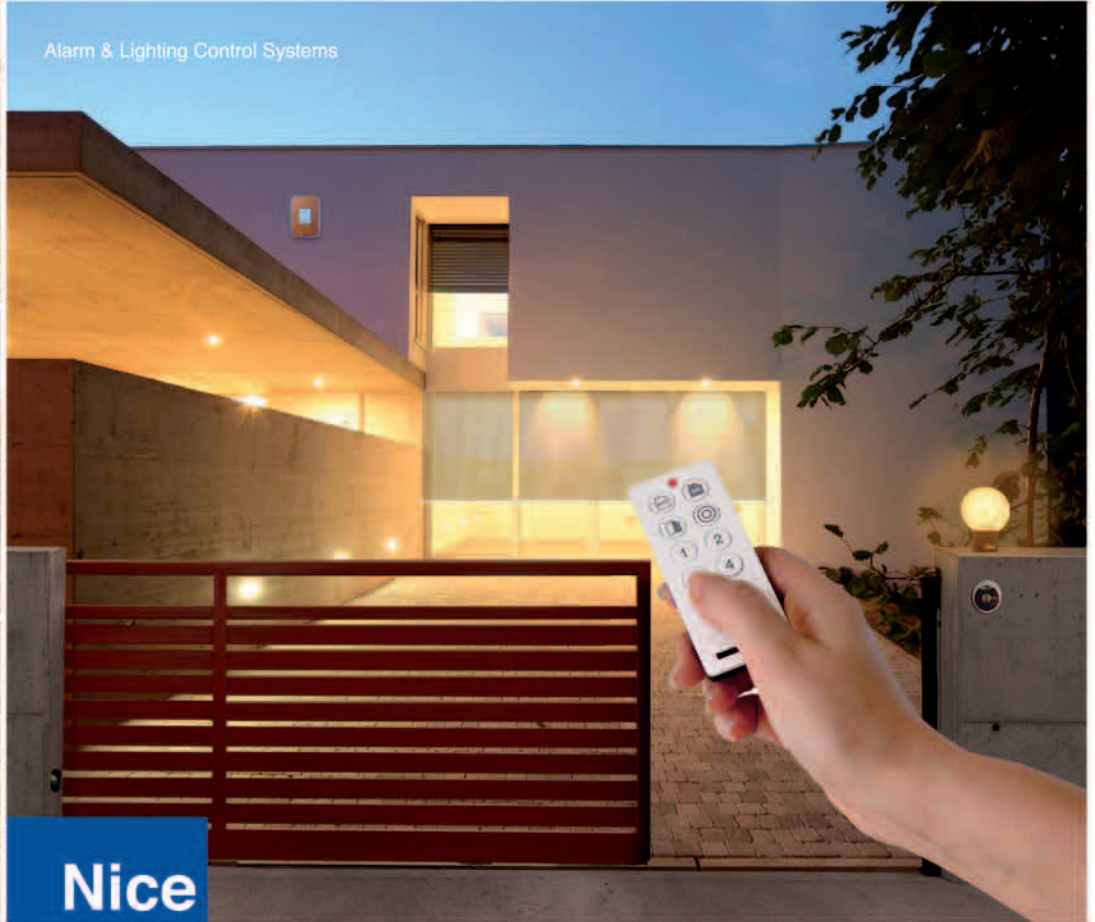


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DR. KARIM EL SOBKY

IS SUCCESS A CHOICE?

DATE OF BIRTH: FEBRUARY 2ND 1971

STAR SIGN: AQUARIUS

By HT Staff



SUCCESS IS DEFINED AS THE SATISFACTORY COMPLETION OF A PARTICULAR GOAL. THE QUESTION IS HOW DO WE RATE SUCCESS, HOW DO WE MANAGE IT, AND WHETHER IT'S A CHOICE OR NOT?

KARIM EL SOBKY IS A SUCCESSFUL AND PASSIONATE PRACTISING DENTIST WHILE ALSO CONTINUING AS A SHOW JUMPER. RIDING A HORSE IS LIKE FLIRTING WITH DANGER WHICH CAN BE THE ELEMENT OF ATTRACTION, JUST AS BEING A DENTIST WHERE THE ZEAL OF LAUGHTER SHOWING THE WHITENESS OF TEETH, CAN BE THE PASSION WHICH DRAWS HIM.

KARIM RUNS A FULL TIME CLINIC AND SIMULTANEOUSLY COMPETES FOR EGYPT BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. HE IS ONE OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO IS VERY CONSISTENT WITH HIS WAY OF LIFE; HE TRAINS DAILY AND PRACTISES HIS STUDIED PASSION. APART FROM THAT, HE IS AN EVERYDAY PERSON WHO SPENDS TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO ARE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN HIS LIFE, AS WELL AS TRAVELLING FOR PLEASURE. HE IS NOT A PERFECTIONIST, BUT SEEKS TO BECOME BETTER AS A RIDER AND AS A DENTIST. HOW HAS HE MANAGED TO CONTINUE BEING A SUCCESSFUL SHOW JUMPER AS WELL AS A SUCCESSFUL DENTIST?



▲ Karim & Udana aspire for more success, they train at the Cairo stadium everyday

When it comes to management between both practices, Karim divulges, "Certainly, it is not an easy task. I ride for the Army Club and I have to ride 6 horses a day. I give up a lot of facets in life in order to maintain management between my 2 careers. I do organise myself mostly by being punctual, living close to my clinic, close to the Army Club and Cairo Stadium where I train, and I try my best not to spend time in the car. Time is very essential to me and so maintaining that is key". Unlike many I have interviewed, Karim was exactly on time for the interview! He continues, "Unfortunately, I also have to give up on many pleasures of life. Additionally, in the summertime I try to slow down the riding a little bit as to be able to take a holiday; yes, I still ride everyday during the summer however I do not participate at summer shows like other riders do. As for Dentistry, it is a marvel to me...I love it, and I think I am good at it. I am not happy with the elements I am reluctantly forced to give up, but I have to."

Karim has recently been focusing on competing locally, but is missing out on many of the electrifying Arab League events that bring about many achievements and glory. Does he have any regrets? He says, "I wish I had more time to give for riding internationally...I

can compete at maybe 1 or 2 shows from the Arab League, but nothing in Europe; I am afraid that will require full time dedication. My equation seems to be stable as is at the moment."

Being decisive and content with the decisions made may be one of the keys to success. He continues, "Well, I have been a Dentist for a while! When I graduated from the School of Dentistry 15 years ago, I worked with my mentor Dr. Hani Habashi who was an inspiration and whom I owe a lot to; from there on, I moved up on my own. I do not think I would have given up my riding for Dentistry or vice versa; they are both very important to me."

Karim's long time love 'Floring Haft' and currently 19 year old 'Petite Donna' are the most important horses in his life he says. "The best horses in my career are 'Floring Haft', 'Attraction', 'Petite Donna' and 'Colando'. Winning the National Egyptian Championships riding 'Colando' during the 2000/2001 season, and the A, B, and C Classes during the 2006/2007 season, were the best local career wins I have had due to my having those horses at the time. 'Petite Donna', 'Belton Legend', and 'Mahrous' won the 3 classes and 'Attraction' was placed at 4th place in the B Class. 2007 was a very good year for me....I really wish I had those 4 horses with me now..."

On sponsorship, Karim adds, "I am not sponsored at the time being, but I have 3 private horses owned by the Chef de Keep of the Egyptian team Samir Abdelfatah, the Head of Asset Management of Belton Wael El Mahgary, and the owner of El Alouka, Dr. Khalid Al Jeraisy. Samir Abdelfatah has been an inspiration to many riders and certainly to me as well as he continuously shows good spirit. Belton was my sponsor until 2008 however with the financial crisis, matters have frozen until 2010 - I received plenty of help from them; during the 2007 Arab League season they helped us with tickets, transportation, and with the horses themselves. On the other hand, the Army Club is the best sponsor in Egypt, they do provide us with the training and the horses which are the major elements, but they do not sponsor us with other aspects such as expenses of the sport as a whole."

A combination of a good horse with a good rider is one of the elements of the formula to success. Is it a rider with talent, good coaching and discipline? Or a suitable horse at the right stage of one's career? Or is it the management of a riding career and luck coming into the equation? Karim states, "All of the above even add the luck part! Not luck in terms of being superstitious, but in



© Claude Stemmeln

▲ From 1995 until present, Karim has been consistently winning & if not, then at least comes in the top 5 - except for the 2004/2005 season when he unfortunately did not compete due to 2 injuries!

terms of "what is meant to be and what is not meant to be". You have to work hard, you have to have talent, and you have to have a good horse. Eventually, success is a belief; you have to have faith in your goal, faith in your plan, and faith in the effort you put in – then you will succeed. So yes, all the above are part of the equation! 'Petite Donna' was a very good horse during the 2008 season and was 18 years old at the time. If we look at her results, we could see that she was leading the qualifications at local shows even though she did not make it to the final because she got sick, although she was very consistent throughout because I was selective in which shows I made her jump. I make such decisions through being pragmatic, through knowing her well, and through putting a plan at the start of the season."

Love, support and good parenting play

a huge role in Karim's life. "If I had to rate my family support on a scale from 1 to 10, I would give it a 15. My family has been very supportive to me for as far back as I can remember. As a youngster, they took me to tennis classes but I skipped them to go to see the horses; I was addicted! Once they found out, they were very understanding to my passion and took me for riding classes. They also supported me as an athlete; I had my ups and downs but they were still there. I am very lucky to have such parents; my father was a Military Officer who rode for fun and inspired me to ride, and my mother is a Dentist who also inspired me to study Dentistry. At first I was meant to study Engineering, but continued with Dentistry. Two years studying that and I stopped! Do not know why! I took a year off from university but then continued. Nevertheless, they also supported me."

Continuing on with future plans, Karim adds, "I currently have good horses but not experienced enough to compete at big shows, so I am working on their training. If I have the chance to compete at a couple of Arab League tournaments, I will not let it slip by. I am also trying to continue my studies with Implant Dentistry, so I am also trying to invest time in that." **HT**

1995/1996 - National Championships

A Class – 5th place
B Class – 1st place

1996/1997 - National Championships

A Class – 4th place

1997/1998 - National Championships

A Class – 1st place (Cup)
A1 Class – 6th place

1998/1999 - National Championships

A1 Class – 2nd place
B Class – 1st place

1999/2000 - National Championships

A2 Class – 3rd place
A2 Class – 4th place

2000 – International Championships in Alexandria

Team Competition - 1st place

2001/2002 - National Championships

A1 Class – 5th place
C Class - 2nd place

2002/2003 - National Championships

A2 Class - 1st place
A1 Class - 3rd place
Big Class - 1st place

Arab League International Championships

Day 1/ 1st place
Grand Prix / 6th place

2005/2006 - National Championships

B Class - 5th place

2006/2007 – National Championships

A1 Class - 1st place
B Class – 1st place
C Class – 1st place
B Class – 4th place

2007/2008 – National Championships

A2 Class – 3rd place

2008/2009 – CSI* Sharm El Sheikh Arab League International Championships**

Day 1/ 1st place Medium Tour
Day 1/ 3rd place Small Tour
Day 3/ 4th place Small Tour
Day 4/ 2nd place Silver Class



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60 SECONDS WITH ULLI KASSELMANN

COUNTRY: Germany
DATE OF BIRTH: 20/12/1947
STAR SIGN: Sagittarius
DISCIPLINE/PROFESSION:
learned agricultural machinery
fitting, now a businessman in the
equestrian industry.



▼ Ulli with Bianca & Francois



What is your best achievement?

Organising and hosting the 2005 European Championships within 14 days of preparation time, even after the cancellation of Moskau.

Who is your favourite athlete (rider or other sports person)?

Alwin Schockemöhle (European Champion, Olympic Champion, very good instructor & trainer, and successful trotter breeder).

Do you keep any pets?

Dogs.

What is your favourite movie?

Out of Africa.



Who is your ideal celebrity (female or male)?

The Sultan of Oman.

What is your favourite gadget?

I-phone!

What is your favourite music record?

Frank Sinatra, New York - New York.

What is your second favourite sport?

Soccer.

Do you like to cook?

Sure, but not to clean the kitchen!
(Smiling)

What is your favourite drink?

A good glass of Bordeaux red wine.

What is your strength and what is your weakness?

Strength: punctually & precision,
weakness: impatience.

What makes you happy & what makes you sad?

Happy: positive thinking people, sad:
dishonest people.

To your close friends & family, you are known to be?

A friend in each situation of life.

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

I would change religion conflicts.

Do you support any charitable organisations?

Unicef and our own charity event 'The Red Horse' during our international competition Horses & Dreams.

Do you think there is any other question we should have asked but did not?

What can one do to stop the worldwide climate change??? **HT**

AL ZAHRAA 2009

BEAUTY IN THE EYES OF THE BEHOLDERS

Nada H. Abdelmoniem

MW Siensei, 1st place winner of 2 year old colts (Owner: El Gabry & Al Badeia Farm Egypt)



Stephanie
Claude

"I KNEW THEN I WOULD LIKE IT, BUT I DID NOT THINK I WOULD LIKE IT THAT MUCH. AL ZAHRAA HAS A GREAT SENSE OF HISTORY AND IT FEELS LIKE COMING HOME TO THE FOUNDATIONS OF PHARAONIC CIVILISATION" SCOTT BENJAMIN

AL ZAHRAA STUD REPRESENTS THE TRADITIONAL PRESERVATION OF ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ARABIAN HORSE STRAINS; THE PURE EGYPTIAN ARABIAN HORSE. WITH MORE THAN 100 YEARS OF SAFEGUARDING BY THOSE WHO PASSED AWAY BUT STILL KEPT THEIR NAMES RECOGNISED, AL ZAHRAA CONTINUES TO DRAW BREEDERS, SPECTATORS, AND ARABIAN HORSE LOVERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD - COMING TOGETHER TO COMMEMORATE A CREATURE THAT WAS DISTINGUISHED BY HISTORY, AND POLISHED BY HUMAN AND NATURAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS. HORSE SHOWS ARE ABOUT LOOKING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF BREEDING HORSES AND SELECTING THAT HORSE; AL ZAHRAA HAS SUCCEEDED IN DOING THAT EXTREMELY WELL BY KEEPING ATTENDEES EXCITED AND ENGAGED.



▲ Ashhal Al Khalediah, 2nd place winner of international 10 year old stallions (Owner: Al Khalediah Farm KSA)

The National and 12th International Championships took place from November 12th until the 15th. Arabian horses paraded their beauty to judges and mostly, breeders who see no beauty except in their own flaunters. For the first time, Al Zahraa 2009 underwent sponsorship by 3 of the biggest names in the business industry; Mercedes Benz, Marriot Hotels and Lufthansa Airlines. The setting of the show was different to that of 2008 along with valuable prizes and titles that any breeder would like to acquire.

If not coinciding with major events in the international annual calendar of Arabian horse events, Al Zahraa would perhaps host up to 1,000 horse entries. Preceded by the Nations Cup in Aachen and the Middle Eastern Championships in Amman, and succeeded by the World Championships in Paris, many breeders keep their horses in Europe due to the tight international calendar as well as transportation. Nevertheless, 360 national and international entries made the 4 day event full with an electrifying atmosphere inviting to those who wish to learn about the legacy of the Egyptian Arabian horse.

With new administration, the development of the stud farm has

▼ Ghayat Al Khalediah, 1st place winner of international 3 year old fillies (Owner: Al Khalediah Farm KSA)



© Husam Ikremawi

been taking positive directions in the maintenance of location as well as purity in lines. "There has been plenty of development, horse wise and administration wise. We have been working hard on training and conditioning our stud horses along with our local breeders' and our work has paid off this year. The show is getting bigger year by year; we have many horse entries, a big number of local and international breeders, a good show-up by spectators, and most importantly, we have excellent media coverage", says Mr. Ahmed Hamza, Director of Al Zahraa. He continues, "Luxury has also been comprised in this year's event with sponsorship by Mercedes and Lufthansa, and catering by Marriot hotels. We hope to continue reviving the event in the upcoming years."



▲ Zakaria Mackary Mercedes Benz Marketing Director, Ahmed Hamza Al Zahraa Director, Mike Nolte Mercedes Benz CEO, Willy Luder President of the ECAHO & Nasr Marei Chairman of the Organising Committee

To international American Judge, Mr. Scott Benjamin, "Gauging the horses here has been outstanding; it's easy to find winners of international quality in every class." Truth to be told, in the eyes of those who attend the event annually, both national and international entries stunned spectators with exquisiteness." International Judge, breeder and Chairman of the Organising Committee Dr. Nasr Marei states, "There has been a great improvement in this year's horse quality through bigger number entries and through the participations of more and fresh breeders. The reason behind the improvement in quality in my opinion is the eagerness from breeders to improve; breeders have been exposed to many international events and so they obtained more education. Some breeders are not welcoming to the education as they may be traditional as well as sceptical about any changes, although on the other hand, non-stagnant breeders have improved their horses through cross-breeding and importation of other blood lines."

On sponsorship, Dr. Marei continues, "Sponsorship this year was very beneficial and generally, it's of added value for organisers. Horse owners and breeders were very welcoming to the idea of sponsorship in many ways possible one of which is they themselves are sponsoring classes,



▲ El Sayyeda, 3rd place winner of international 5 year old mares (Owner: Al Kaheerah Farm Egypt)

which we as organisers, are grateful for. We have been working on big sponsorship names and I had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Mike Nolte, CEO of Mercedes Egypt, who incidentally happened to be a horse lover. He was very enthusiastic about the initiative, and along with his good relations with Marriot and Lufthansa, everything just came into effect. Given 3 such big names, the event was certainly organised differently as they sponsored certain essential classes and trophies. In all, I would say the outcome worked out brilliantly and Mercedes is very keen to keep on sponsoring this event for many years to come. Having said so, they

would not cooperate with show organisers if the latter did not have a vision, as the former does have an image to preserve; hence, we are more ambitious to do more together next year."

National championship prizes were won by many highly regarded stud farms of which constantly coming in first place was Al Farida Stud horses followed by horses from Rabab and Al Gabry Stud. On judging the national show, Mr. Peter Gamlin commented, "I have judged the national show for 3 consecutive years. Horse quality has improved tremendously since I first came here,



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▲ Tarek Hamdy with Imperial Baaraz, 1st place winner of international 6 year old stallions (Owner: Al Farida Farm Egypt)

organisation is better and the showing of horses done by employing some European trainers, has added to the whole event. There could be more improvement in trotting the horses; instead of lunging them in several circles, it would be better to rack them in straight lines, helping them get a better score in movement."

Prizes of different classes at the International championships were swept off by horses from Alkhalediah Stud Farm. When asked about his opinion on Al Khalediah, Dr. Marei remarks, "Al Khalediah horses do not just do it here - they do it worldwide! They have acquired some of the best horses in the world; they can afford it and they still continue doing so. Their horses are integrated in one solid single programme; they have all the lines and are deservingly winning."

Presenting their characteristics, from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia alone, 20 entries competed with 2 from England, 4 from Kuwait, and several from Qatar and the UAE, in addition to local horses of which more than 150 were improved in quality and produced within an improved breeding programme and better selection category. During the International show, horses were from a

▼ Mike Nolte, along with Ahmed Hamza & international Judges



© Claude Stemmelin

▼ Gamil Sakr, 1st place winner of national 6 year old stallions (Owner: El Gabry Farm Egypt)



© Claude Stemmelin

different background; from Russian to Polish to straight Egyptians – horses with a different look. More reflections from Dr. Marei tell us, "our Egyptian breeders did not do too badly in the National show as they competed against horses that are not straight Egyptian Arabians. When competing against each other, one can really tell the difference of course, however in the International show, there was extra strength. Two decades ago the Russian Arabian swept all the prizes, and then came what is now termed as the "Golden Cross", which is the Egyptian, the Spanish and a bit of the Polish lines. We ended up today with what people would term the "universal type" as it includes a bit of the 5 lines we know of; those universal types were shown this year."

Mr. Mutlaq bin Mushrif, Director of Al Khalediah Stud is one of the vocal and enthusiastic spectators during Al Zahraa shows. He says, "Every year Al Zahraa is a different show to me as organisation is better, horses look improved and presence from both local and international breeders is excellent which gives the whole championships a stirring atmospheric experience. Coming here annually is very essential to us as the championships are of essence to the international annual calendar as well as Egypt being our second home."

The Ring Master is defined as the "Chief of Orchestra" by veteran Ring Master and breeder Mr. Hassan Valsan. A volunteering job that requires tolerance and patience, the ring master has to be aware of every single detail happening within the ring; from judge requests to photographers and most importantly, the supervision of horse handlers. Moreover, a position of such sort requires a technical knowledgeable background; from being aware of ECAHO regulations as well as following them, to gaining the respect of horse handlers. Mr. Valsan says, "I have been the ring master for Al Zahraa show for 4 consecutive years, and thankfully, each year I have managed to gain the respect of the various horse handlers. The most important aspect of being in that position is keeping track of the time, as well as being both strict and flexible with all present ring individuals. I have

not faced many challenges during Al Zahraa shows, especially this year as matters were better organised. Communication has been very easy as we use very easy words and signs to get matters going."

For further show developments, Mr. Benjamin adds, "I think Egyptian handlers could learn something from the European ones. They should encourage the horses to move forward; I do not want to see the horse circle and gallop, I want to see it trot and move forward in a straight line. Having said so, even European handlers are circling the horse, which needs some development as well!" **HT**



▲ Hassan valsan, Chief of Orchestra of the ring

▼ Mutlaq bin Mushrif & Moutaz al Biwaibiya, 1st place winner of international 11 year old stallions (Owner: Al Khalediah Farm KSA)



▼ Saladin Al Qusar, 3rd place winner of international 10 year old stallions (Owner: El Gabry Farm Egypt)



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THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY IN ABU DHABI

CEREMONIAL MOUNTED LEGENDS

By Nada H. Abdelmoniem



SEPTEMBER 30TH 2009 WAS THE OPENING FOR THE ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL HUNTING AND EQUESTRIAN EXHIBITION (ADIHEX). HELD UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH HAMDAN BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE EMIRATES FALCONERS' CLUB, THE NATIONAL EVENT ENJOYED CAMEL AND HORSE AUCTIONS, SALUKI BEAUTY CONTESTS, ART COMPETITIONS AND TRADITIONAL HUNTING ACTIVITIES. VISITORS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE THE LATEST CAMPING, HUNTING, EQUESTRIAN AND WEAPONRY EQUIPMENT; AS WELL AS SEE A DESIGNATED HERITAGE AREA TO ACQUAINT THEM WITH THE DEEP-ROOTED TRADITIONS OF ABU DHABI AND THE UAE.

AS IT IS PART OF CULTURE AND TRADITION, FALCONS AND SALUKI DOGS ALWAYS CAPTURE THE INTEREST OF VISITORS, AND NEVER THE LEAST, THE ARABIAN HORSE COMPETITIONS ALSO PROVED TO BE A BIG SUCCESS. EXCEPT THIS YEAR AT ADIHEX, THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE 4 DAY EVENT WAS THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY MUSICAL RIDE WHICH CARRIED THE AUDIENCE AWAY WITH GENUINE APPLAUSE.

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AWAY FROM HOME AND EUROPE, THE UNITED KINGDOM EQUINE MUSICAL DISPLAY TEAM OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY PERFORMED TWICE A DAY THROUGHOUT THE 4 DAY EVENT TO DAILY ENTHUSIASTIC SPECTATORS, WHILE FLAMBOYANTLY CAPTURING THE INTEREST OF MANY MEDIA OUTLETS, FROM TELEVISION TO PUBLICATIONS. THE HORSES AND SOLDIERS THAT MAKE UP THE HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY MOUNTED REGIMENT'S TEAM OF HORSE RIDERS CALLED 'THE MUSICAL RIDE' EXHIBITED THEIR TRADITIONAL EQUINE SKILLS IN ATTRACTIVE ICONIC BRITISH CEREMONIAL UNIFORM SET TO MUSIC.

HORSE TIMES MAGAZINE WISHED TO HIGHLIGHT THE CONCEPT BEHIND TRANSPORTING THE WHOLE REGIMENT FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO ABU DHABI AND THE EFFORTS EXERTED BETWEEN THEM AND THE ORGANISERS FROM ABU DHABI AUTHORITY FOR CULTURE & HERITAGE (ADACH), THEREFORE HAD THE CHANCE TO INTERVIEW THE ADJUTANT OF THE HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY MOUNTED REGIMENT (BASED AT HYDE PARK BARRACKS IN KNIGHTSBRIDGE LONDON) CAPTAIN EDWARD OLVER LG, WHO CONFERRED HIS THOUGHTS ON THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE.

How long have you been part of the Household Cavalry Musical Ride, and to your personal perspective, what can you tell us about it?

I have been at The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment (HCMR) for 2 years and prior to that I was at the Household Cavalry Armoured Regiment based in Windsor for 5 years. The Household Cavalry is a remarkable regiment; it is the oldest and most senior in the British Army. We have the unique privilege of escorting HM the Queen on Ceremonial occasions and yet also deploy on operations around the world (without our horses).

The HCMR dates back to 16th century; how was this legacy maintained and what kind of challenges are faced when it comes to training, discipline, order & organisation?

The disciplines on display with the Musical Ride have been around since the foundation of the Household Cavalry in 1660. The manoeuvres on display in Abu Dhabi were first performed as a routine in 1882. Of course the music and production values have changed but the soldiers and horses train in the same way they always have. Discipline is a central tenet of any army and the reason The Musical Ride exists today is to train the soldiers in a disciplined environment. Furthermore, the soldiers who have been to Abu Dhabi have had such a parameter busting experience that they will no longer worry about when we take the Musical Ride to a domestic show. Nothing can bring confidence more than wide experience. I am personally delighted to have seen our soldiers building bridges across cultures and developing an understanding of Islam and Arab culture and heritage. The Household Cavalry is a most recognisable part of Great Britain and so maintaining our culture and heritage is an integral part of our function.

This is the first time ever for the HCMR to perform in a country besides Great Britain, and the first time to perform in an Arab country; how did the idea come about? How many horses came to Abu Dhabi?

We perform overseas from time to time but we have never performed outside Europe. When I was appointed as the Musical Ride Officer I decided to investigate taking the Musical Ride to a new audience. The Arab world has an affinity for the horse that cannot be matched. I found a very inspiring and committed partner in the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ADACH) and together we crafted this unique project to bring the majesty of ceremonial Britain to celebrate culture and heritage in Abu Dhabi. We had a wonderful time in the Emirates and performed to a very receptive audience both local and expatriate. The team that travelled to Abu Dhabi consisted of 46 men and 30 horses, with 28 performing at any one time.

Were any technical challenges faced upon agreeing that the HCMR will perform in Abu Dhabi?

We had a fabulous team with the very best provision for horse welfare. We worked hard for up to 12 months before the event so actually we gave ourselves the best chance of success and thankfully there were no incidents. Of course flying 30 horses and 46 men and planning for any outcome is a challenge, but it is also fun to overcome, especially with so many new friends in Abu Dhabi to liaise with.

What can you tell us about ADIHEX organisers and their support to transporting the regiment to the Emirates?

The organisers of ADIHEX and ADACH in particular were the most fantastic hosts and promoted the Household Cavalry extremely well! There was not a single spare seat during the performances and ADACH gave us the greatest gift by inviting us and giving us the opportunity to perform in front of a new and receptive audience. They thought of everything and made our visit to the Emirates great fun and a memory for all to cherish.

The Musical Ride performed twice a day for the duration of 4 days; what can you tell us about the efforts exerted in practice/rehearsals and maintaining order having been in an alien country?

We did 7 performances over a 5 day period. Each performance lasts no more than 20 minutes for the horses so actually it is quite a short period of exercise for them. We had a 2 week period of acclimatisation before the performances and so our horses and men were comfortable with the conditions. It is however important to note that all training and performances were conducted inside and so acclimatising to the air-conditioning was more important than acclimatising to the desert heat.



▲ Henry Dallal, who has photographed the HCMR for 10 years, spent 6 years trying to perfect this shot; only once a year does the HCMR cross the Serpentine Bridge of Hyde Park, London



“I AM PERSONALLY DELIGHTED TO HAVE SEEN OUR SOLDIERS BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS CULTURES AND DEVELOPING AN UNDERSTANDING OF ISLAM AND ARAB CULTURE AND HERITAGE”

▲ Captain Edward Olver

Does the Musical Ride usually perform outdoors or indoors? The indoor arena was crowded with spectators and the music was loud which may have caused difficulties to the horses; have there been any incidents in this regard?

Our horses are the most photographed in the world. Everyday the horses are ridden through the streets of London with the daily glamour of urban life; air brakes from buses, pneumatic drills, sirens etc. Music played in a closed auditorium is positively soothing compared to their existence in London! It is also very important for us to train hard so that when we are on parade with HM the Queen with thousands of people waving flags and cheering our horses are inoculated against it. The cheering of 2,000 people for the Musical Ride is important training for the Ride itself, but pales into insignificance when compared to what they face on a large ceremonial parade like HM the Queen's birthday parade.

Would there be any interest in having the HHCMR perform again in Abu Dhabi, or even in another Arab country?

The Musical Ride is a display team and enjoys performing wherever it is invited. The soldiers in the team loved The UAE and I am sure would be very excited by the opportunity to visit another Arab country. **HT**

REGIMENTAL HISTORY:

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment provides the Queen's Life Guard daily and Sovereign's Escort on State occasions, mounted on horseback. They maintain their world-famous traditions dating back to 1660.

MUSICAL RIDE OVERVIEW:

The Household Cavalry Musical Ride consists of 28 horses and 36 soldiers. An Officer of the Rank of Captain commands the Ride and The Riding Master to HM the Queen, is responsible for the equitation training at the Regiment and he consequently trains and choreographs the Ride. The senior Non-Commissioned Officer (the Household Cavalry Rank is a Corporal of the Horse) is responsible

for the day to day running of the Ride and its administration. The Musical Ride is viewed by the UK Armed forces to be the pinnacle of military equitation. The Ride demonstrates its skills by performing a series of routines during the display. Members of the ride receive 4 weeks training prior to their first show of the season and this training is continued throughout the year. The majority of the soldiers have been in the army for less than 2 years and have all reached the level of excellence required by the Riding Master to perform on the Ride. The full ride on display is made up of the Musical Ride Officer, the Drum Horse, four trumpeters, four rough riders and sixteen outriders. Other requirements might be to announce the start of a polo match or to present prizes after a show jumping competition. The Ride can be accompanied by a Mounted or dismounted band or it may perform to music played over loud speakers. The Ride will perform equally well to military music or depending on the environment it may perform to more modern music.



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PARALYMPIC RIDER

DR. ANGELIKA TRABERT

"IT'S ABILITY NOT DISABILITY THAT COUNTS!"

By HT Staff

"MY NAME IS ANGELIKA TRABERT (BUT MOST PEOPLE CALL ME GELI). I WAS BORN IN 1967 IN GERMANY. WHEN I WAS 6 YEARS OLD I SAT ON A PONY FOR THE FIRST TIME AND SO BEGAN MY LOVE FOR HORSES. PROMPTED BY MY INTEREST, MY PARENTS SEARCHED FOR WAYS TO ENABLE ME TO RIDE. I STARTED WITH HIPPO THERAPY (PHYSIOTHERAPY ON A HORSE) AND WAS INTRODUCED TO THE 'RIDING FOR THE DISABLED IN GERMANY'. IN 1985, ON MY FIRST VISIT TO THE USA, I STAYED WITH THE PRICE FAMILY FOR 5 WEEKS. WITH THEIR DAUGHTER, MICHELLE WHO HAD LOST HER LEG DUE TO BONE CANCER AT THE AGE OF 8, I RODE FOR THE FIRST TIME WITHOUT MY ARTIFICIAL LEGS. MICHELLE OFFERED ME A RIDE ON HER SENSITIVE ARABIAN HORSE 'PRINCE', BUT ASKED ME TO DO THAT WITHOUT MY ARTIFICIAL LEGS, BECAUSE SHE WAS NOT TOO SURE HOW HE WOULD REACT TO BOUNCING LEGS ON HIS BELLY. THAT WAS A NEW EXPERIENCE - FOR THE FIRST TIME IT WAS POSSIBLE TO RIDE WITHOUT PAIN AND TO LEARN ABOUT SITTING ON A HORSE CORRECTLY. BACK HOME, I CONTINUED TO RIDE IN A WESTERN SADDLE. IT GAVE ME MORE SUPPORT AND ENABLED ME TO STAY ON THE HORSE WITHOUT MY ARTIFICIAL LEGS."





"In 1989 I was given my first special dressage saddle with the help of Mr. v. Dietze (who developed most of the compensating aids in Germany). Then I started to ride dressage, managed to become a trainer C for able-bodied, continued with my studies and became a trainer for the disabled. I bought my first horse in 1992 - 'Ghazim', a Trakehner gelding; together we lived through many ups and downs.

In 2001 I qualified as a trainer 'A' in Dillenburg with Ghazim. I also took the first step towards becoming an equestrian judge. Throughout that time I was also competing. I started to ride at a serious international level in 1991.

1996 in Atlanta I was elected "Athletes' Representative" for the International Paralympic Equestrian Committee (IPEC), I was re-elected in Sydney 2000 and again in 2004 and 2006. I started the IPEC internet page for athletes which then became the official IPEC page International. Since 1996, I have been instructing disabled children with horseback riding and showing them the opportunities and possibilities which arise from working with a horse as a partner. For most of them it is a new experience - to decide on their own what to do, where to go, and how to have such a big and powerful animal accept their decision and execute it! I was "on the road" for over 10 years with my Trakehner gelding who unfortunately, in 2004 injured his

right hind-leg which sadly prevented us from competing together, and so I had to retire him. He now helps a 13 year old getting started in dressage and I still use him to fit compensating aids for other riders with a disability!"

What can you tell us about your disability?

I was born without legs and I have three fingers on my right hand, missing also the middle joints. The reason for the disability was never discovered, but it would not have made any difference to me anyway!

Do you ride for the disabled team or the able-bodied, or both?

Since 1991 I have ridden internationally for the German Para-Equestrian Team. So I've had the great opportunity to go to 3 European Championships, 4 World Championships and 4 Paralympics. All together I've won 13 silver and 2 gold medals. Our latest success was the European Championships in Norway, where I won silver in the individual, silver with the team and gold in the Freestyle test with my 9 year old mare Londria. I am very proud, since this was the first individual gold medal in my career so far. Besides riding internationally for the Para-Equestrian Team I also compete successfully at able-bodied competitions nationally up to 'M-dressage', which includes half passes and flying changes. In the last competition I entered this year, I rode the first 'S-dressage' including pirouettes, showing that there are no limits.

As a disabled rider, how do you familiarise yourself with horses?

When I start to ride a horse that has never been ridden by a disabled rider before, it is sometimes very obvious that the horse T-H-I-N-K-S! BUT horses are the best compensating aids we have. They usually do not care how the aids are being given to them, as long as they understand what the rider wants. They accept us the way we are. Sometimes I think it would be great if humans could act the same way and not question everything first. So horses do adapt quite easily and try to please the rider, when being asked gently and with understanding. The only problem which has appeared sometimes is that horses can feel insecure when I start to ride them without legs. Therefore I do need horses with a strong character, who are intelligent and willing to learn. And of course we both need just a little more time, patience and understanding.

What can you tell us about your achievements, and what drives you to success?

Looking back I do realise that I have achieved a lot in my life. Most of the credit I give to horses, because they taught me very early to be patient and to continue to practice without giving up that easily. I am not at the top level, I will probably never be able to reach that level, but the horse has made things possible for me that I never would have thought possible. This is what makes horse riding so special. It is interesting, never boring or finished. You can continue to learn and improve, even as you get older. Unlike many other physical sports, you can continue and become better as you gain more knowledge and experience of your horse and yourself! Just look at the age of some of those able-bodied Olympic riders. Besides the thrill of the event, competitions have brought me to a lot of different places around the world and introduced many different people to me, including some who have become good friends. I feel very honoured to have had such opportunities which a lot of able-bodied individuals will never experience.

▼ Angelika & Walmorel at an international event in Mannheim, Germany



In addition, the horse has also given me a chance to explore mountains, rivers and beaches – to go places I could never have been able to reach with my artificial legs or a wheelchair.

Do you ride as an individual or as a team member, or both?

As a team member - both with my horse and with the German Team. As a partner, the horse taught me what I needed to know to be successful - and sometimes I think it is a benefit to not have any legs because I am not able to force the horse to do certain things, I always have to work with it as my partner. And because we have become good partners the horse has enabled me to be a proud member of the medal winning German Para-Equestrian team.

What are your future aspirations & what do you wish to achieve?

I would like to participate at the 2010 World Equestrian Games riding for the German Para-Equestrian Team. Para-Equestrian, the 8th discipline of the FEI, will for the first time be part of the event. Primarily as riders who lack something in our bodies, we belong to the rest of the riding world and it is therefore correct that finally, Para is included with the other equestrian disciplines. But I have mixed emotions about this upcoming event since the costs will be outrageous. I am afraid that many Para-Equestrians from different nations will not compete because some of them cannot afford the costs, or because some nations will send able-bodied riders in preference to a Para-Equestrian. As the Athletes' representative I will see what I can do, as I feel the Games will only be successful if we have a broad representation of good riders to compete against. Will they be World Equestrian Games if half of the world cannot come?

Besides Angelika as a rider, what can you tell us about Angelika being an everyday person?

Well I am a normal person and a rider! I enjoy my independence and am very thankful for it. I earn my money by being an Anaesthesiologist. Sometimes it is tough to coordinate and organise my work and my sport, but it is also a challenge and I would not want to miss



▲ *A picture speaks larger than 1,000 words!*

my work either. I also enjoy skiing and discovering new countries. I was in Guinea at the beginning of this year for 3 weeks. I worked there with my profession; we operated on 110 medical cases "out in the bush" in a small hospital 400km inland, which only operates those 3 weeks when a German medical team comes. It was a real challenge and a lot of people asked why I needed to go there. Well, that's very easy! Nobody else specialised in Anaesthesiology, was willing to go at that time! Furthermore I hoped it might also show the African people that a lot is possible if you are just willing to try despite a disability! When we arrived there I saw no persons with a disability – they were hidden away. But because of me in my wheelchair, their families gradually brought them out so we could see them. A beginning perhaps? I hope I am able to continue to take the challenges as they appear in my life and challenge others to do the same!

What can you tell us about your family?

I am a single child, who is very lucky since my parents, grandparents and good friends helped me to get to where I am now. They gave me independence, openness, and a lot more.

Who has had the greatest impact on you?

The greatest impact has been from my parents and Marc, my boyfriend. Marc taught me that there are no problems – just challenges which require good solutions (which he always had). He made life even more fun and was great at devising and building compensating aids for me (and for others). He also pushed me to achieve what was important to me, so I had to reset my "borders" anew several times. Sadly he died in plane crash in 2005 while he was fire fighting as a pilot in the South of France. But we had a great, if short, time together, which I would not have missed for the world.

If you have a message to give out to the world, what would that message be?

"Carpe diem", which means use the day and my motto: It's Ability, not Disability, that counts! I believe we should live each day as it comes and seek out and focus on the ability. If you do, you will be surprised – there is always more ability than you expect. And it is SO great when you discover it in yourself, in others, in your horse. That's my motivation and I would like others to realise and enjoy it also! **HT**



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THE RED SEA'S SUCCESS CSI** & CSI***-W SHARM EL SHEIKH

By Sandra Adams

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CSI** SHARM EL SHEIKH INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING CHAMPIONSHIPS OPENED UP THE 2009/2010 ARAB LEAGUE SEASON NOT IN ITS ACCUSTOMED LOCATION AT KING'S RANCH BY THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA, BUT IN CONCORDE EL SALAM SINAI. IN A LOVELY BREEZE OF WIND AND RED SEA HARD-HITTING SUN, MORE THAN 200 RIDERS FROM EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, IRAQ, THE UAE, SYRIA, JORDAN, AND QATAR COMPETED TO PRIZE MONEY OF 200,000 US DOLLARS AND A CAR DURING THE 2-WEEK EVENT.

RIDERS, HORSES AND OFFICIALS WERE HOSTED AT CONCORDE EL SALAM HOTEL WHERE THE OUTDOOR COMPETITION GROUNDS WERE GRASS - WITH COURSES DESIGNED BY INTERNATIONAL COURSE DESIGNER, THE NETHERLANDS' ROB JANSEN. THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE WHOLE EVENT WAS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF ALEXANDRIA; RIDERS WOULD FINISH THEIR CLASSES AND THEN CHANGE INTO SHORTS TO GO LOUNGE AT THE BEACH. EL SALAM HOTEL WAS ACTIVE WITH TOURISTS WHO JOINED THE EVENT AS SPECTATORS, AS WELL AS THE RIDER'S TENT THAT WAS FULL WITH A WARM SPIRIT THAT ADDED TO THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE AT SHARM EL SHIEKH.

Rob Jansen gives us a brief analysis to his experience by saying, "The level of riding in the Middle East is reasonable, although with bigger classes, I see better performances since both riders and horses have developed throughout the past 5 years. Accordingly, I design the courses. From what I have seen, there are many differences between the riders; some are very good and show potential, and some are promoted too soon to jump bigger fences. I designed big courses for the Grand Prix and against the riders in terms of technicalities, but I make sure they do not hurt the horses. The final result would be the best rider winning! My vision when designing is that the best rider with the best-trained horse will jump clear, and so several riders such as Andre Sakakini and HRH Prince Abdualh bin Miteb always come in first. As for the footing, there have been several complaints about the grass and sand arenas but I think they are good complaints that give extra room for Show Organisers to develop this show

further by next year. My advice for Officials would be to hire a good Agricultural Engineer who will build an excellent sand footing with fibre. I still must say that the whole organisation has been fine and the location is simply splendid. All my best compliments to Concorde El Salam hotel as I am sure they tried all their best to make our stay convenient."

HRH PRINCE ABDULLAH BIN MITEB AL SEOUD:

"Coming to Egypt is lovely and riding here in Sharm El Sheikh has a different atmosphere. The Arab League schedule was disorganised for several seasons but this year it has started well and early. It's very comfortable here, people are lovely and relaxed, and the beach is beautiful. The show is held inside the hotel itself where we are lodging, which is convenient, and truthfully, the experience of being in Sharm El Sheikh this year is quite amazing. From another point, what I

understood from the Show Organisers is that the show grounds were prepared in only 2 months; it was surprising to see that all was under control given the short duration of preparations. Moreover, the arena was quite good if compared to the ones in the UAE or Europe. With transportation, we had some difficulties reaching Sharm El Sheikh from Europe since there were no direct flights for the horses, so we had to land in Cairo and travel another 600 kilometres to Sharm. I am also happy to jump the big classes clear as it's quite competitive given lots of good conditioned horses and riders. Many Egyptian riders are in good form especially the young generation that brings about lots of potential. Winning means a lot to me since I bought my horse from Egypt, so he is an Egyptian product basically! He was here as a young horse jumping with Mohamed Osama El Boraei who I think has given him a lot of mileage."

▼ HRH Prince Abdullah bin Miteb Al Seoud, KSA



CSI** OCTOBER 1 - 4:

From October 1st 2009 until October 4th, the 2 star show was a point accumulator for the World Cup in Geneva, Switzerland taking place in April 2010.

RANK	RIDER	HORSE	COUNTRY	TOUR	DAY
1	Andre Sakakini	Hope	Italy	Big	1
2	Hani Bisharat	Its Me T	Jordan	Big	1
3	Mohamed O. El Boraei	Nirvana	Egypt	Big	1
4	Karim Habashi	In Shalla	Egypt	Big	1
5	Mohamed mansour	Its Super Girl	Egypt	Big	1
1	Dr. Karim El Sobky	Petite Donna	Egypt	Medium	1
2	Hani Bisharat	Trouble Maker	Jordan	Medium	1
3	Mougeith Shehab	Vivre Syria	Syria	Medium	1
1	Salem Al Suwaidi	Natalie 097	UAE	Silver	1
2	Mohamed Ali Seif	Sky Walkers	Egypt	Silver	1
3	Abdelrahman Alaa Ragab	Sayonara	Egypt	Silver	1
1	HRH Prince Abdullah	Mobily Lil Majd	KSA	WCQ	2
2	Andre Sakakini	Hope	Italy	WCQ	2
3	Karim Habashi	In Shallah	Egypt	WCQ	2
4	Ibrahim Sami	Cest La Vie	Egypt	WCQ	2
5	Mohamed O. El Boraei	Cesario	Egypt	WCQ	2
1	Hani Bisharat	Trouble Maker	Jordan	Medium	2
2	Andre Sakakini	Miss Corland	Italy	Medium	2
3	HRH Prince Abdullah	Al Rayyan Poco Loco	KSA	Medium	2
1	Mohamed Abu Eita	Primiera	Egypt	Small	2
2	Abdelrahman Alaa Ragab	Sayonara	Egypt	Small	2
3	Hashem Zaghloul	Sundancer	Jordan	Small	2
1	Abdullah Al Sharbatly	No Time	KSA	Gold	3
2	Ahmed Al Mudahka	Machoman	Kuwait	Gold	3
3	Bandar Jumaa	Lovari	Kuwait	Gold	3
1	Riyad Ayed	Flying Beauty	Iraq	Silver	3
2	Al Walid Al Rashid	Cavalor Rochetto	Jordan	Silver	3
3	Al Walid Al Rashid	Olit	Jordan	Silver	3
1	Andre Sakakini	Hope	Italy	GP	4
2	Ahmed Tolba	Rocco	Egypt	GP	4
3	Hani Bisharat	Its Me T	Jordan	GP	4
4	HRH Prince Abdullah	Mobily Saudia	KSA	GP	4
5	Wassim Anzarouti	Laganscho	Syria	GP	4
1	Ahmed Alaa Ragab	Favorit	Egypt	Medium	4
2	Andre Sakakini	Hollerith	Italy	Medium	4
3	Mohamed Taher Ziyada	Khair Allah	Egypt	Medium	4
1	Salem Al Suwaidi	Natalie 097	UAE	Small	4
2	Riyad Ayed	Flying Beauty	Iraq	Small	4
3	Dr. Karim El Soky	Easy Jet	Egypt	Small	4



▲ Andre Sakakini, Italy

▼ Sameh El Dahan, Egypt



▼ Ahmed Bassioni, Egypt

▼ Baraa Jabbouli, Syria



NAJIB CHAMI

Rider, Foreign Judge, President of the Technical Committee of the Lebanese Equestrian Federation & Secretary General Assistant:

"It was good since this is the first time competitions take place in a different location other than Kings Ranch. Even though the whole event came in during a tight schedule, somehow, they made a big effort to make things easy for everyone. For 10 years I have been judging in Europe and this is my first time to actually judge in an Arab country because usually I am riding. If compared to Europe, we are slowly approaching the levels there. I am very much enjoying my time here in Sharm; it's always nice to be around the riders to get to know them more."



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▲ Wassim Anzarouti, Syria

▼ Karim Habashi, Egypt



© Hossam Fadi

CSI*** OCTOBER 8 – 11:

Starting October 8th throughout October 12th, the 3 star show held participations for point accumulators for the Arab League standings and was a 2010 World Cup and World Equestrian Games qualifier.

RANK	RIDER	HORSE	COUNTRY	TOUR	DAY
1	Wassim Anzarouti	Laganscho	Syria	WCQ	1
2	Andre Sakakini	Hollerith	Italy	WCQ	1
3	HRH Prince Abdullah	Mobily Saudi	KSA	WCQ	1
4	Mohamed Mansour	Its Super Girl	Egypt	WCQ	1
5	Claudia Al Nafarawy	Fadlallah	Egypt	WCQ	1
1	Hani Bisharat	Touble Maker	Jordan	Medium	1
2	Salem Al Suwaidi	Solito	UAE	Medium	1
3	HRH Prince Abdullah	Al Rayyan Poco Loco	KSA	Medium	1
1	Ali Qarlousi	Sunrise	Iraq	Small	1
2	Abdallah Alaa Ragab	Sayonara	Egypt	Small	1
3	Dr. Karim El Sobky	Udana	Egypt	Small	1
1	HRH Prince Abdullah	Mobily Lil Majd	KSA	WCQ	2
2	Karim Hamdy	Cecotto 4	Egypt	WCQ	2
3	Andre Sakakini	Hollerith	Italy	WCQ	2
4	Wassim Anzarouti	Laganscho	Syria	WCQ	2
5	Firas Jneidy	Tyson	Syria	WCQ	2
1	Salem Al Suwaidi	Solito	UAE	Medium	2
2	Mustafa Al Zindaki	Power Light	Syria	Medium	2
3	Amr Gamal	D Ga Vue	Egypt	Medium	2
1	Mohamed Abu Eita	Primiera	Egypt	Silver	2
2	Salem Al Suwaidi	Natalie 079	UAE	Silver	2
3	Islam Amr Eid	Vission	Egypt	Silver	2
1	Dr. Sameh El Dahan	Vera	Egypt	Medium	3
2	Mohamed Al Owais	Saydoon V.D.H.	KSA	Medium	3
3	Ahmed Alaa Ragab	Salsa	Egypt	Medium	3
1	Ali Sabbour	Soiree	Egypt	Silver	3
2	Yasin Al Zbib	Athar Al Sham	Syria	Silver	3
3	Riyad Ayed	Subhan Allah	Iraq	Silver	3
1	Andre Sakakini	Hollerith	Italy	GP	4
2	HRH Prince Abdullah	Mobily Saudi	KSA	GP	4
3	Karim Habashi	In Shallah	Egypt	GP	4
4	Claudi El Nafarawy	Fadlallah	Egypt	GP	4
5	Wassim Anzarouti	Laganscho	Syria	GP	4
1	Mohamed Mansour	Its Super Girl	Egypt	Medium	4
2	Ahmed Bassiouni	Top Choice	Egypt	Medium	4
3	Mustafa Al Zindaki	Power Light	Syria	Medium	4
1	Islam Amr Eid	Vission	Egypt	Silver	4
2	Dr. Karim El Sobky	Petite Donna	Egypt	Silver	4
3	Khaled Mohamed Aly	Karamana	Egypt	Silver	4



© Hossam Fadi

▲ Karim Hamdy, Egypt

▼ Ibrahim Sami, Egypt



© Hossam Fadi

▼ Salem Al Suwaidi, UAE



© Hossam Fadi

▼ Riyad Ayed, Iraq



© Hossam Fadi

HANI BISHARAT:

"We as a Jordanian team have been preparing plenty for the event; we have had several competitions in Jordan prior to this one and so we came in with some good confidence. I was lucky over the past 2 weeks as I raised the flag of Jordan several times, which is a good achievement. My amazing mare 'Trouble Maker' was almost going to win all the Medium Classes! I'm also very much happy to see that the Arab League is continuing as every year it brings about many young talents which is a refreshing sight. As Arab riders, we are developing to the best and we have reached World Cup and Olympic levels, and in the upcoming 2 years, it is certain that we shall all see many potentials; experience will come by age and mileage, which is happening here. My sincere thanks to Horse Times as it follows our riding activities and publishes the best of us and the best of the Arab region's show jumping scene."

Haidar Al Jumaily

President of the Iraqi Equestrian Federation:

"We face many challenges with the sport in Iraq, but we are trying our best to come up with the best strategic and beneficial plans for our riders and horses. We have an embargo on horses travelling out of Iraq and generally, the sport is expensive of course and to transport our horses to be able to compete at Arab League events is more of a challenge. As such we have bought several horses and rented stables at the Equestrian Federation of Jordan in Amman in order to make matters easy for our riders. Moreover, our riders are really exerting a good effort, and I think with the little expenses that we have, they have achieved some good results and gained some good experience. We would still appreciate some support from the International Equestrian Federation and we as Iraqi riders, would love to participate at more Arab League events." **HT**

*Pictures courtesy of Hossam Fadl
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▲ Hisham Hattab, President of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation, presenting a Prize to Haidar Al Jumaily

▼ Claudia El Nafarawy, Egypt, was of the riders who qualified for the World Cup



▼ Firas Jneidy, Syria





© Hossam Fadi

▲ Abdelrahman Alaa Ragab, Egypt

▼ Sakakini won many number 1 spots!



© Hossam Fadi



© Hossam Fadi

▲ Khaled Mohamed Aly, Egypt



© Hossam Fadi

▲ Islam Amr Eid, Egypt

▼ Abdullah Al Sharbatty, KSA



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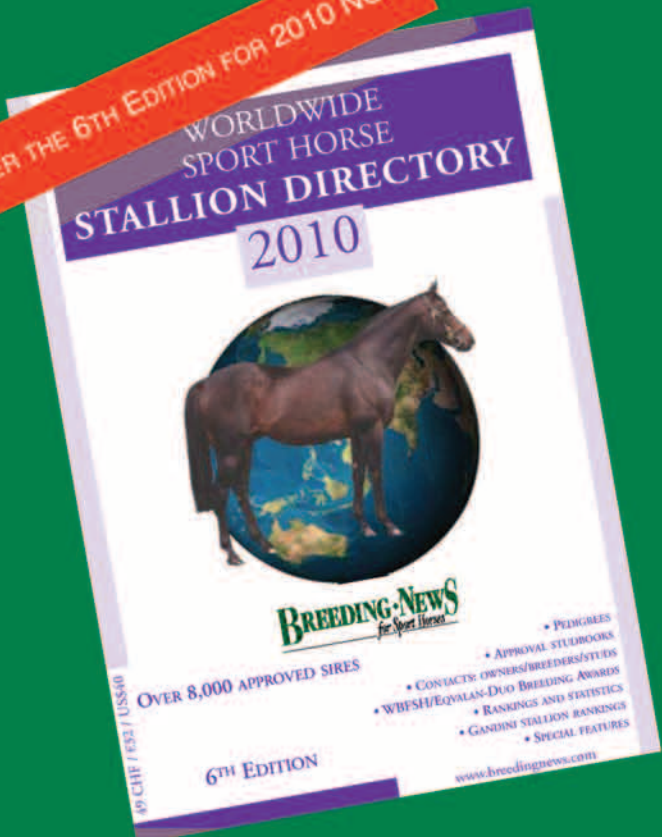
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MOHAMED MANSOUR

THE QUEST

MOHAMED MANSOUR IS A BUSINESSMAN WHO IS PASSIONATE ABOUT RIDING. HE STARTED AS AN AMATEUR AND WISHED TO TAKE HIS TRAINING A BIT FURTHER. IN THE QUEST TO BECOME PROFESSIONAL, RIDING REQUIRED DEDICATION AND TIME, ALONG WITH GOOD TRAINING, GOOD HORSES, EXPOSURE AT SHOWS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ONE'S SKILLS.

By Khaled Assem

Starting early in 2009, Mansour started training with international rider and trainer Andre Sakakini. By March, they had already spent 3 weeks competing in Arezzo riding 'Crazy Ann' and 'Picina'. Mansour then also competed with his stallion 'Cyberspace' whom he later swapped with Michael Whitaker for 'Its Super Girl'. Whitaker went on to compete with 'Cyberspace' in the Puissance Class in Italy – jumping a 2.25cm wall in order to set a new world record for the show.

Mansour also rode for 2 weeks in Cortina d'Ampezzo riding 'Picina', 'Crazy Ann' and 'Its Super Girl'; matters then came into shape and he started winning some classes.

He then went to compete in Germany at Gera. For 2 weeks, he jumped the 140cm classes and came in 7th place with 'Crazy Ann' and 8th place with 'Its Super Girl'. Upon entering the Grand Prix with that horse, he unluckily knocked 3 fences down.

Mansour afterwards went to compete in Haachenburg, a 3 star show that was a preparation for the European Championships. 'Crazy Ann' knocked 2 fences down on the 145cm of the 1st day.

CSI*** SHARM EL SHEIKH INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:

October 2009, Mansour comes in 1st place riding 'Its Super Girl' at the Medium tour of Sharm El Sheikh Championships, and 4th place also riding the same mare at the 3 star show.

On his win and riding improvements, he quotes, "My next goal is to get solid results in the National Championships 'A1' Classes, and to train my horses to compete in the summer around Europe - and to also find a horse to compete with at those top shows.

During the Sharm event, my mare jumped very well during the first week of the competitions and so she gained confidence; I was not too worried about her, just had to give her a good ride. For the past 5 or 6 years I was not training consistently due to work, but I made the decision of concentrating on training by going to Europe to do courses starting February 2009. I did 78 rounds that I think paid off here! This sort of international exposure showed me what the real world was like." **HT**



© Hossam Fadi

▲ Known to be one of the most chivalrous riders in the riding scene, Mansour received a standing ovation for coming in 1st place. Eng. Hisham Hattab, President of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation & Najib Chami, Foreign Judge, handed him his prize

▼ Mansour was confident about the abilities of 'Its Super Girl' who jumped clear during the 140cm height Medium Tour of CSI*** Sharm El Sheikh International Championships



© Hossam Fadi

CSI***-W TRIPOLI

EL FATEH 27TH INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING COMPETITION

By Merit Fanous

LIBYA, A LAND WITH BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE AND GRAND HOSPITALITY, HELD AN EVENT FOR THE WORLD CUP QUALIFICATIONS WITH A 3 STAR SHOW FROM OCTOBER 20TH THROUGHOUT THE 23RD. UPON ARRIVAL TO THE SHOW GROUNDS WHERE SHOW JUMPING COMPETITIONS WERE HELD, A DISPLAY OF NEARLY 100 ARABIAN HORSES RIDDEN BY LIBYAN RIDERS IN THEIR WHITE TRADITIONAL ATTIRES WERE IN ACTION REMINDING A SHOW STADIUM OF 3,000 DAILY SPECTATORS OF THE GREAT MOVIE OMAR EL MOKHTAR. THESE ARE THE RIDERS OF EL JAMAHIRIYA WHO REPRESENT A SPORT VERY POPULAR IN THE COUNTRY.

Mohamed El Amari, President of the Olympic Committee states that more than 10,000 municipal riders from different Libyan tribes participate in equestrian sport in general. Wael Fahmi, President of the Show Commission explained that the level of the 2009 show has risen to a 3 star event as it was a qualifier for the Arab League and for the World Cup to be held in Switzerland, Geneva 2010.

The 2008 show promised a total of 75,000 US Dollars and with the support of the government, the prizes were increased with an extra 15,000 US Dollars and a car. Along with the big support of the President of Libya General Moamer El Qadaddfi who quotes, "sports are to be joined and not only to be watched", TV channels broadcasted nearly 20 hours a day of LIVE coverage enabling other Arab countries to follow the event as well as allow the public to learn about the sport.

The Libyan show jumping team was far from international competitions due to the country's embargoed regulations, but with a good structural plan, the team aims to recover quickly and present talent on the show jumping circuit. European riders were present at the show with participations from the 2004 Athens Olympic gold medallist Ireland's Cian O'Conner, Britain's William Whitaker, along with participations from Japan, Brazil, and the UAE.





▲ Wael Fahmi presenting a trophy to William Whitaker, GB



▲ Eiken Safo, Japan

Cian O'Conner, Ireland, winner of the Grand Prix





© Nasr Elain Kahiel

▲ *Abulfatah Militan, Libya*

Course designer Atef Shawki and his assistants Kamal Abo Soud and Ashraf Abdallah designed the courses to match international standards. He quotes, "We put into consideration the horses and the level of riders as well as the footing which is very good at this arena. We also provided the riders with many options as to make their decisions between fences; some distances had the option of executing 5 to 6 strides depending on the speed of the horses and the type of fences they are jumping. Some distances varied with short strides and long ones; we did not go for more than 12 fences as to give the horses some rest in between."

The jury consisted of international judges Mrs. Fahima Sebiane (Algeria), Karim Badaro (Lebanon), Ashraf El Leithy (UAE), Maher bin Rashid (Tunisia), and Hussam Zummit (Libya). Paul De Benedictis, UAE Foreign Judge, says, "The competitions are becoming very strong in the Arab

Arab League and riders with their horses are improving. You see quality with the organising committee. I think 2 riders from the Arab League are not enough to qualify for the World Cup, there should be more."

Karim Badaro, Head of Jury and International Judge states, "This is the second time I come to Libya and I see that the show has developed with a lot of experienced technicians and officials from the Arab region and Europe. Of course, the riders add up to the whole event. The courses were not too big to bring out the best of the riders, but the show was still exciting."

A competition without a speaker has no meaning and no taste with the warm voice of Akram bin Greid, speaker of the show and Event Director. "Our Libyan riders are still developing and we aim at having them participate at more international events in order to gain experience. For the start of the Arab League, I would

suggest that competitions start from Morocco going in further east to Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt and so on as travelling would be easier. Unfortunately this year we only had a few Arab riders from the UAE, and we certainly would love to see more Arabs next year."

Head of the technical delegate was Germany's Olaf Peterson, one of the very well known international and Olympic course designers. "I have had the privilege of coming here since 1981. My last time was 2 years ago and it's a pleasure to see the improvement in riding and horses".

The all so hard working Syria's Anwar Hneidi FEI Show Jumping Steward, states "It is my first time in Libya; I heard about the show as many people mentioned the big improvements and prize money compared to years before. The show also became a qualifier for the World Cup and I think its an attractive event and next year, riders should try to make it."

HOSSAM ZUMMIT

Show Secretary:

"This year we worked hard to improve the show; however the difficulties we faced were when placing the schedule so as other Arab League countries can coordinate. Unfortunately, it was very difficult for more riders and horses to travel since they were just in Sharm El Sheikh and had plans to head to Saudi Arabia. We hope the Tripoli event will be the first event of the calendar by 2011 as to have more international presence."

CIAN O'CONNOR

Grand Prix winner & 2004 Athens Olympics gold medallist:

"It is really nice to be asked to come to Libya for the first time and I had the luck to come in 1st on the first day. Technically, the show is similar when compared to worldwide events in terms of the arena, the footing, and the level of course building. I believe that the Libyan riders are close to developing at international levels and I think if Abdulfatah Militan receives good training and competition, he can become an Olympic rider. I am impressed with what I have seen as well as the warmth from the Libyan people and their genuine hospitality; I would love to come again."

VENISS PEDRO:

"Five years ago I was here so it's my 2nd time and I certainly see improvement and good horses. I am currently training with Nelson Pessoa in Belgium who is advising me plenty on my preparations for the 2010 World Equestrian Games in Kentucky."

WILLIAM WHITAKER

First place winner day 1 & 2:

"I am 20 years old and riding at my uncle Michael Whitaker's stables. I am enjoying my stay in Tripoli; it's a very nice show, the arena is very good and it's a great experience to come here. I never came to Africa before so it's my first time! I am lucky to have done well; I think I was fast enough and planned the course very well, so it's nice to go back home with some money!"



▲ Akram bin Greid & Hossam Zummit, Libya



▲ Veniss Pedro, Brazil

MOHAMED MAHMOUD BAKIR

President of the Appeal Committee:

"A very good show but unfortunately there aren't many Arab riders. The schedule is tight and if Group 7 arranges competitions to start from the west going further to the east, it will be easy for horses and riders to travel and compete in almost all Arab countries." **HT**



Merit Fanous, Egypt ▶

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FEROSIA CLUB ANNUAL SHOW JUMPING EVENT

By HT Staff



© Ahmed Shawkat

10 year old Gazella jumped very well during the 3 day event, but was flawless during the Grand Prix

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE EGYPTIAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, THE FEROSIA EQUESTRIAN CLUB IN GEZIRA HELD ITS ANNUAL SHOW JUMPING EVENT WITH PARTICIPATIONS FROM MORE THAN 300 EGYPTIAN RIDERS COMPETING TO TOTAL PRIZE MONEY OF 40,000 EGYPTIAN POUNDS.

From December 10th until the 12th, classes of 80/90, 110/120, 135/140cm in height kept audiences entertained. Present at the event was the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Sports Mr. Mamdouh Moharram along with the club's Members of Board Dr. Ahmed Shawk, Mr. Amr Eid and Dr. Mohamed Salah.

During a very exciting and tight Grand Prix of 140cm courses designed by Ashraf Abdallah on a beautiful grass arena, Dr. Sameh El Dahan from the

police sports union riding Gazella came in at 1st place followed by, Alaa Mayssara riding Karta in 2nd. Mayssara riding Hitch came in 3rd again, followed by the Ferosia Club's Khaled Mohamed Aly riding Karamana at 4th place, and once more, El Dahan riding Vera at 5th.

MAMDOUH MOHARRAM:

"I am present at an event that is well organised with beautiful horses and competition levels that were very high.

▼ The speaker of the show Rami Iskandar with Amr Eid, Mamdouh Moharram, Ahmed Shawk & Gen. Shehab Mourad



The atmosphere is excellent and it's honouring to know that Egypt can produce many talented riders; I see the best. My compliments to the organisers and Members of Board for developing and improving on the infrastructure of this club as it goes back in history with its competitions as well as late riders whom were labelled as champions. We plan to help in developing the equestrian sport and the infrastructure of club in the future, hoping that more exposure and promotion will attract more riders and attendees."

AHMED SHAWKI:

"We have adopted a new scheme where we approached many sponsors, as well as increasing the amount of prize money in order to encourage riders to participate and spectators to watch. We also changed the programme by producing more competitions such as the relay and team competitions besides the individual ones. In all, the event has been very different to those of the previous years which is a good achievement."



▲ Mohamed Ekram had a consistent performance over the 3 day event



▲ Mamdouh Moharram handing the 1st place trophy to Sameh El Dahan



▲ Ahmed Shawki with Khaled Mohamed Aly who was jumping clear in the 2nd round but took a sudden turn to save time - only knocking down the double to come in 4th place

▼ Alaa Mayssara rode 16 year old veteran Karta and was thrilled with her performance

MOHAMED SALAH:

"I would say it has been a good year for the event as we had many participants! Next to our club riders alone, other riders are here to compete for good prize money. In order to continue keeping this event at this class in the upcoming years, we plan to round-up our riders' training and change the grass arena into a sand fibre one. We have serious upcoming plans for the event, hoping that by 2010, the show will be upped a notch further." **HT**





PHOTOGRAPHER

CYMON TAYLOR

ANYBODY WHO CALLS IN JOHN CLARIDGE'S AND ROBERT DOWLING'S PORTFOLIOS TO SEE IF THEY WANT TO ASSIST THEM IS DESTINED TO GO FAR. CYMON TAYLOR DID EXACTLY THAT, AND HIS GOAL PAID OFF FOR HE ENDED UP ASSISTING DOWLING FOR A YEAR.

After his time with Dowling ended, Taylor went to the USA where he worked for Annie Leibovitz, followed by 2 year freelance assisting in New York doing occasional pieces for Interview magazine on the side. Since his time assisting, Taylor has built up a series of separate books not content with restricting himself to one narrow area. The surprising thing is that his Car book is as strong as his Portrait book, which in turn is as strong as his Landscapes. "You can't bore people with what you're doing; there's no point in having 50 images all of different things in 1 book. I do have a number of different books and we angle them towards whomever we're approaching. I've always looked for something that is "real", where there is something to be said about a subject, but also about the photographer too."

To date Taylor has done well for himself working nationally and internationally for O&M, Lintas, BBDO and Saatchi & Saatchi amongst many others. His aims are to build up his advertising commissions and "keep

the books because that's what it's all about ultimately, trying to keep your standards as high as possible."

Taylor's new project is a colour photography book named 'After Ruby' published in the name of his two daughters Bea and Ruby.

Not content with only one discipline, Taylor has an active sport interest that is divided between bikes and horses in the main - having both contractual work in the World of Superbikes series (WSBK) and a commitment to one of Europe's largest international equestrian centres. His interest for horses grew after witnessing his daughter Bea, develop a passion for the creature. Throughout 2004 and 2009, Taylor has spent many years shooting horses at Arezzo Equestrian Centre (AEC), and working around most of the world.

In 2004, Photo Station was established but in 2009 closed its office in AEC; a progressive step forwards to shoot more selectively and

capture the entire spirit of equestrian events such as the Global Champions Tour.

Taylor's sport photography does not just concentrate on the machine, animal, or human involved, but on capturing the event as a whole. In equestrian sport, he prefers to work with sunlight in an outdoor setting which provides a wider opportunity to search for the relationship of horse and rider between the jumps. Taylor also seeks to shoot more of the Cross County discipline with his daughter Bea competing, and would like to work in other areas such as Polo and Arabian horses. **HT**

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▲ HRH Princess Mona Al Hussein of Jordan encouraging young Mustafa during the Jordanian Society for Photography Festival



▲ Mustafa presenting pictures to HRH Princess Alia bint Al Hussein



Mustafa Hussam Ikeremawi is an apple that has not fallen far from its tree. His father is a professional Arabian horse photographer registered with the ECAHO and tells us that he has noticed Mustafa's touch for photography and all he could do was assist him in developing that hobby. He continues that he wishes to see his aspiring young talent mature to become a better photographer than he is!

Mustafa was honoured with prizes during the Jordanian Society for Photography Festival this past November 17th. Royalty figures such as HRH Princess Alia bint Al Hussein, of the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation, and HRH Prince Khalid bin Sultan bin Abdelaziz Al Seoud, owner of Al Khalediah Arabian horse Stud – are familiar with his works. A definite bright future for the KG2 student whom, under the spotlights of

many television cameras – has stolen the attention away from his father and many other photographers. **HT**

mustafa@ikermawi.com
 www.ikermawi.com
 Tel: +962 799 699 477
 Mob: +966 500 009 802
 P.O.Box 2470
 Amman 11941 - Jordan

THE RIDER'S MENTAL FITNESS (PART 2)

By Dr. Mohamed Elsherbini

IN THE PAST, COACHES WOULD SHOUT SUCH THINGS AS "RELAX" TO THEIR RIDERS DURING A COMPETITION IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE THEIR PERFORMANCE. IN REALITY, SUCH COMMANDS DO NOT HAVE THE DESIRED EFFECT, PARTICULARLY IF THE RIDER DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO THEM.

REDUCING AROUSAL LEVEL:

Arousal is a term used by sports psychologists to describe levels of both physical and emotional alertness or activation in response to a particular situation. Many riders think that the more aroused they are and the more adrenaline they have, the better their performance will be. However, while high arousal levels can increase determination, high adrenaline levels are actually counter-productive; they inhibit clear thinking, feel and physical control.

There are 2 main strategies to relax: 1 is to use mind and imagination to relax muscles by using meditation as a role-playing technique, and the other way is to do the opposite; using muscles to relax the mind by tightening and relaxing the main muscles with focusing on breathing.

INCREASING AROUSAL LEVEL:

When the rider becomes bored or lethargic, it is necessary to increase the level of arousal. Arousal level should increase from dressage to show jumping and even more in cross-country; those types of equestrian disciplines are related to the degree of arousal. If the horse needs to be more engaged, the warm-up should be directed towards arousal. The rider who needs arousal



▲ Believe it or not, if you are not a mentally fit rodeo rider, you would be on the ground in less than 2 seconds

should be surrounded by 1 or 2 people who respect and know the goals of competition. Some riders need to use positive trigger words like "go", "yes", "do it", and "strong".

IMPROVING CONCENTRATION:

Lapses in concentration can undo all the good work that has gone into the rider's training and preparation. It is easy to become distracted, by both external factors such as words from spectators, or internal factors such as thinking about receiving a prize as a rider rides into the ring when he should be thinking about the first exercise or fence.

Another typical internal distraction is thinking about hitting a fence or performing an inaccurate movement, which some riders concentrate on to an extent that they would forget where they should be going next. This may particularly happen during a show jumping round. In training, a rider needs to make it a habit to always think of the next step rather than to look backwards.

Both show jumping and dressage demand fairly short but continuous periods of concentration. The physical presence of the fences in show jumping tends to make the mind concentrate very well. Dressage tests,



© Jacques Toffi

▲ Good mental preparation leads to good concentration during competition, as shown on Marcus Ehning's expression



© Jacques Toffi

▲ Mental fitness is very important for continuous concentration in up to 6 or 7 minute dressage tests, as shown by Andreas Helgstrand

the other hand, do not have such mental props - and since a test is also 2 or 3 times longer than a show jumping round, they make greater demands on concentration. Get into the habit of analysing a test sheet as you would a course of fences: the end of 1 movement being the fence before the start of the next one.

AIMS OF MENTAL PREPARATION:

Mental training can be divided into 6 different areas, each of which trainers can concentrate on. A truly accomplished rider will be proficient in all these areas but it will take time to reach this level of accomplishment just as it takes dedicated training to improve riding skills. The rider should have the following mental characters:

1 - Being steady: being methodical and consistent is essential for the rider to maintain a good relationship with his horse. The rider needs discipline in his training. He should stick to the timetable. His aim should be to work hard, and to be calm but persistent.

2 - Being simple: a good rider will be driven by the need for logic and efficiency. Analysing complicated tasks and breaking these down into smaller parts will make them more manageable, as will defining vague tasks with more precision. The trainer

should test out ideas and teach the rider to learn from his mistakes.

3 - Being positive: the rider should be constructive and optimistic, as well as realise the importance of working with others. He should believe in himself and focus on his abilities, not his shortcomings. The rider should work from his strengths and always think forwards to his next goal.

4 - Being flexible: in order to be the best, the rider should be able to be creative and open minded in his search for improvements. He needs to look for more efficient progressions that will allow him to achieve more, and he must be prepared to think laterally. There should be an aim to find new and better ways of doing things.

5 - Being prepared: the rider should have the ability to plan ahead and to respond to his trainer's plan. From the start, the rider should practise making decisions and taking control. This will enable him to seize opportunities in his competitions. He should learn that while competing, and then he will always make the best of any opportunity he encounters.

6 - Being human: the rider should have respect for himself and others in order to cope with the lapses of competition life. The rider should develop his own

individuality to improve his performance. He should accept life's diversity and unpredictability, and above all, enjoy himself.

ASSESSING THE RIDER'S MENTAL FITNESS:

Teach your rider to ask himself the following questions, if the answers to any of them is yes, it means there would be a need for improvement:

- 1 - Did I lose way in a course or dressage test?
- 2 - Do I become very nervous before competition?
- 3 - Do I become angry after making a mistake?
- 4 - Do I make the same mistake repeatedly?
- 5 - Do I lack confidence in my ability?
- 6 - Do I focus on the negative aspects of riding?
- 7 - Do I find it difficult to get motivated?
- 8 - Do I lose concentration?
- 9 - Do I find it difficult to be disciplined in my weekly training?
- 10 - Do I perform well in training, but badly in competition?

Always remember that for a rider to reach levels of championships, he should be able to exercise and control himself both mentally and physically. **HT**

ARABIAN PASSION THE SECOND SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR SYRIA'S INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN EXHIBITION



▲ Helal Al Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Horse Association

▼ Manal Al Assad, Honourary President of the Syrian Equestrian Federation

Located at the show grounds near Damascus airport, the 2009 Arabian Passion International Equestrian Exhibition was held between October 16th and the 19th. In cooperation with the Syrian Equestrian Federation and Bassel Al Assad Equestrian Club, and supported by the Syrian Arab Horse Association and Aldimashqea Arabian Horse Stud, many local and international companies made their presence for a second year showing their products. The audience found the exhibition to be useful where one could acquire many promoted brands and where children received entertainment with the pony show just on the outside.

More rewarding was the children's drawing competition that was exceptional and introduced new hidden talents. The exhibition was all about building a young generation that has enough passion and love for horses as well as creating more awareness for everyone else.

The horse auction was a big success with several challenges among buyers. The exhibition was a great success with well-recognised support from organisers to everyone. **HT**





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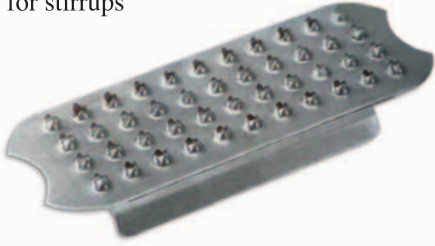
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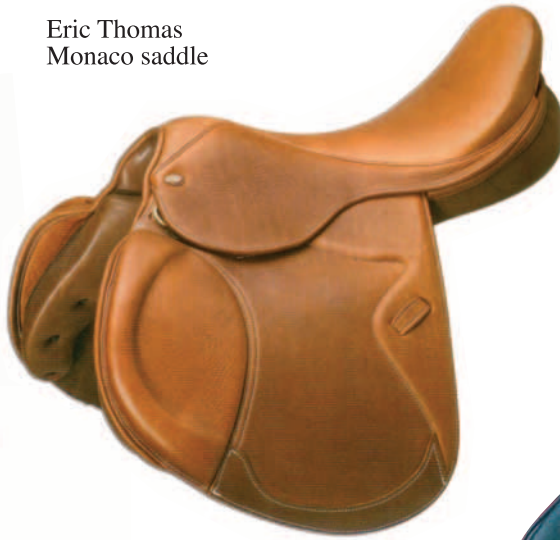


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