

HORSE TIMES no. 45

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THE LEADING EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE IN THE MIDDLE EAST



EGYPT'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONS BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

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Dear Readers,

Season's greetings and happy Ramadan. As we produce another spectacular issue of HORSE TIMES, I'd like to start by thanking everyone who has shared our path and had faith in our quest. Following on our selection by the IOC and FEI to cover equestrian sport at the London 2012 Olympics, our magazine was chosen by the Organising Committee of the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Normandy 2014 to be the exclusive Media Ambassador for the Middle East. This for us is a crowning achievement for all our hard work and all of your support. We'll be distributing 1,000 copies of the magazine at the Games while aiming to enhance social media awareness in real time on the ground during the events. Today our website archives thousands of articles, our Google+ page is followed by more than 870,000 worldwide fans with more than 4,000,000 views and our Facebook and Twitter channels are constantly active.

In this issue we'll guide you through the details and preparations of the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in Normandy 2014, to give you an insider's view of what organisers will offer in general and what the equestrian events will look like over there. We took Egypt's National Champions and travelled back through time to Cairo's magnificent Citadel to merge their hopes and aspirations for the future with their historical wealth and profound traditions of the past. CSI Kuwait International Show Jumping Championship presented a success story that showed determination and the ability to gradually overcome hardships; everyone shared and spared a horse for foreign riders to make the show a memorable one. And meanwhile at Rabab Stud, Al Khaeldiah Arabian Horse Show was hosted by organisers who seek perfection, and it seems they are almost there.

VIEW POINT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

From shows to friends, we meet two good old friends of mine: Peter Bollen and Najib Chami who are both icons in their fields. Peter took Cavalor further and further to be a top international brand celebrating its 25th anniversary and Najib took the Ukrainian team also further and further, to be amongst one of the top teams in the international show jumping league.

Young Egyptian girl riders have taken a chunk of our attention in this issue, which they deserve. Follow the dreams of the Ferosia Club ladies as the bond of friendship between them is so heart-warming in a sport which in this day and age is quite individualistic, a sport that we still hope can promote friendship, horsemanship and morality. The Abogabals, a story of a father with great passion for horses who teaches values to his son, who isn't just a young champion, but a gentleman in every sense; a pride and joy to his father.

We were present at the 26-goal 110th Maserati U.S. Open Polo Championship in Palm Beach where the most prestigious polo was played by the best riders in the world. Read our report as well as our thoughts on the 2014 Dubai Polo Gold Cup after returning there for the fourth consecutive year. We continue with our fourth part of interviews with riders sponsored by Select International: Karim Abdelfattah tells us about his horses and efforts which took him up to A-Class shows.

Should you visit Morocco, there would be nothing there that you wouldn't admire. The Western Kingdom of North Africa is a land of culture, treasures and pleasures. This coming October, Salon Du Cheval D'El Jadida will be hosted for the seventh year where organisers aim to present the Kingdom's equestrian culture and hospitality to an even larger international audience.

We also include technical and artistic information, which our readership have come to depend on, including articles on Equine Artificial Insemination, photographers with great talent, as well as the art of classical dressage, and training tips.

We truly hope you read on and enjoy.

Sincerely,

Khaled Assem

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EGYPT'S NATIONAL CHAMPIONS BETWEEN THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

By Khaled Assem

EGYPT HOSTS A PROMISING EQUESTRIAN SCENE AND OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS THERE HAS BEEN NOTICEABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN SHOW JUMPING AND DRESSAGE, DESPITE ALL THAT THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN GOING THROUGH. THE 2013/2014 NATIONAL SHOW JUMPING LEAGUE AND CUP WERE WON BY KARIM EL SOBKY AND SHADY SAMIR, WHILE SHAHINAZ EL-NAGGAR WON THE NATIONAL DRESSAGE LEAGUE. HT DECIDED TO CATCH UP WITH THESE EGYPTIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONS AT ONE OF EGYPT'S MOST HISTORIC AND MAJESTIC NATIONAL SITES, THE SALADIN CITADEL WHICH HOUSES AL-ABLAQ PALACE (THE STRIPED PALACE). THE PROMINENT CITADEL ALSO HOUSES THE IMPRESSIVE MOSQUE BUILT BY AL-NASIR MOHAMMED WHO WAS A FASCINATING AND INFLUENTIAL SULTAN OF THE 1294-1295, 1299-1309 AND 1310-1341 ERA. THE MOSQUE AND THE GREAT HALL OF JUSTICE WERE BUILT WITH A GREEN DOME THAT TOWERED ABOVE THE OTHER STRUCTURES IN THE SOUTHERN ENCLOSURE OF THE CITADEL. AL-ABLAQ PALACE HAD A STAIRCASE LEADING DOWN TO THE LOWER ENCLOSURE AND THE ROYAL STABLES WHERE AL-NASIR KEPT 4,800 HORSES, OBVIOUSLY, AN APPROPRIATE VENUE FOR OUR EXCLUSIVE PHOTO-SHOOT OF OUR PROFILED WINNERS.





**KARIM
EL SOBKY**
NATIONAL LEAGUE WINNER:
PERCEPTIVE TEAMWORK:

“This is the fourth time for me to win the National League; I came in 1st place with Tistarosa and 4th place with Dalivina. The effort exerted in winning the 2013/2014 season was a lot less than before because I had started to think about the sport in a different way; my focus is currently based on the balance of the horse which was a major contributing and developing factor for my recent results as well as Shady’s. Even though our horses jump the biggest classes here, we decided to invest in training them over smaller fences almost completely without contact in order to



develop their own natural balance in front of the fence, where in time they would independently assess the take-off point, and moreover create the necessary disposition for ascent. This helped the horses refine their perceptions and feels for the distance because the difference between a horse with a winning attitude and another one without is that the former helps the rider figure out the better take-off point to the fence, and responds accordingly. I focus diligently on the balance of the horse along with that of the rider and I also tried to implement with Shady forward riding and how to apply it. Now, Shady focuses on riding the corners forward to the fences all the time and afterwards feels his distance as a result. This tremendously helped him in keeping a continuous tempo and pace throughout the course.”

FUTURE PLANS:

“I hope that the equine ban imposed on Egypt four years ago would soon be lifted because I would like to go to compete in the Arab League. I would be unable to base my horses in Europe the way many other riders are doing so now because of my full-time job at my dentistry clinic here. I would also be keen to pass on the experience I have through local training workshops which I could consider giving twice a month for two or three hours.”



SHADY SAMIR

NATIONAL CUP WINNER:

THE HORSES AND THE CONFIDENCE:

“Being in the top league is very exhilarating and quite frankly takes a lot of work and mileage, not just to reach the top but to stay there. A lot of hard work locally and internationally as well as a management plan for the choice of which horses to ride in which class and which shows to attend, allows me to accordingly define my bigger goal.

“Locally, I came in 2nd in the Egyptian League with Alejandro and 3rd with Elkbeer Awe. In the Egyptian Cup, I came in 1st with Elkbeer Awe yet 6th with Alejandro. Internationally, it took quite some time to find the right horses to buy and proceed with my training in Holland which added tremendously to my exposure at international shows and my ability to cope better in front of a bigger crowd. As such I also decided to go the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and participate in some World Cup Qualifiers. It was then that I realised that I needed to redefine my horse purchase strategies as I am a rider that needs time to communicate and bond with my horses before I suddenly take them to bigger classes. The League in the UAE was very tough as all top Arab riders are present and the remarkable increase in prize money. I was lucky I had some good results; I was placed 3rd in Sharjah’s Grand Prix with Cuba Libre, a seven-year-old mare. Such exposure made it much easier for me to ride locally especially since I have better horses here. I could have done better in the Egyptian League, but as I mentioned, I was showing in the UAE and as a consequence didn’t participate at all the shows here.”

RIDING PARTNERS:

“Elkbeer Awe was a horse originally ridden by Karim who helped me a lot and mentioned that the horse would improve my overall skills because he has a very sensitive back and mouth, he doesn’t let anyone touch him; as such, I would learn plenty from the horse. Even though I got a lot of advice from others against that horse, I purchased him anyway and he turned out to be a useful horse as advised by Karim. The points that Karim elaborated on were using much less hands and it was much more about balance instead, not just the rider’s balance, but mostly the horse’s. “You can always compromise the distances but never the balance of the horse”, he would say. For example, even though Alejandro is a fast and hot-blooded horse, I am now able to ride him with a lot less contact. In the past he was more dependent on the hands and accordingly was always too sharp. Now that he is more balanced and less dependent, he is much more manageable in the ring. Karim is like my mentor to me, whenever I choose a new horse I always refer to his opinion. Riding forward has saved me a lot of time faults which has led to my better results this season.”

FUTURE PLANS:

“I will take Alejandro and Elkbeer Awe and head over to France to train with Alice Debany Clero as she has organised a 10-week-plan for us until we start the 2014/2015 Arab League season in Morocco. Her plan is to help us in the preparation; the horses are 12 and 13 years old respectively and they’re the ones who are ready to compete in these events and I think that I have a big chance at winning with them. Alejandro is brave, I will use him for all the bigger classes while Elkbeer Awe is more competitive so I would ride him in grand prix. I have another nine-year-old horse who I just bought and jumped in Lummen this year. I will use him with the other horses in Europe for the medium tours and above and at the beginning of the 2015 season I will take him back to Egypt. I do hope that after showing in Europe this summer, I will be able to compete in the 11 World Cup Qualifiers of the 2014/2015 Arab League season so I can actually make it to the World Cup.”

SHAHINAZ EL-NAGGAR

DRESSAGE LEAGUE WINNER:

BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP:

"I started riding when I was twelve years old yet I was never as consistent as I would have liked to be. At that time I trained very hard as the early stages of development in general take lots of work such as riding without a saddle, developing balance, and understanding more of the routine that I had to refine every day. Fortunately, I've been riding continuously since 2005 and my first serious championship was in 2009. I have been riding Hurricane since 2007 and he added a lot to my riding because when I first started riding him he wouldn't respond to my aids as he was too sensitive and delicate. In fact, he would respond differently to what I asked for, yet with time and training, we became more of a team. I adapted to his sensitivity and he responded to my requests. Truly, he added a lot to my personality and I became more confident and placed plenty of trust in him. During the warm-ups I take control but when we're in the arena he knows what to do; he can always tell the difference between warming-up and actual competition. In the arena he carries himself well and always produces beyond my expectations. It's like he shows-off himself and his performance; to him, it's all about character."

MY HORSE AND I:

"I have a very nice relationship with Hurricane and during my low moments I would always go to ride him and feel much better. He trusts me, and I know that he loves me. I always keep contact with him by going to see him daily whether I'm riding or not; he loves apple juice so I always bring him some. He is more like a pet in the stall."

THE PASSION WITHIN:

"Riding is one of the main priorities in my life; I can't live or function properly without it. It also provides another dimension as I share this passion with my daughter Nabila, whom I'm very happy to pass on the love for this sport to. This passion for riding has increased the bond between us, and when we ride together you can't tell who is who."

FUTURE PLANS:

"Next year I will be competing with Hurricane as well as two other horses: Usual Suspect, the son of Jazz who was a well-known Olympic dressage horse, and Bud Spencer, who I'm supposed to compete with in the A1 Class and he's the son of Biotop, another Olympic dressage horse. My long term goals are to compete in the World Equestrian Games and eventually the Olympics, as for my short term ones, I'm looking forward to the 2015 Pan Arab Games in Lebanon." 🏆

All photos by Khaled Fadda





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THE BIGGEST
EQUESTRIAN EVENT IN THE WORLD!



Mont St Michel
Credit AFP/ Jean-Sébastien Evrard



Chateau Le Pin, photo by CRBN



The Hippodrome, photo by François Decaens



Construction work on D'Ornano Stadium, photo by CO. Normandie 2014

IT IS WITH GREAT HONOUR THAT WE ANNOUNCE THAT THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE BIGGEST EQUESTRIAN EVENT IN THE WORLD, THE ALLTECH FEI WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES 2014 IN NORMANDY (AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 7), HAS SELECTED OUR HORSE TIMES TO BE THE OFFICIAL MEDIA AMBASSADOR FOR THE MIDDLE EAST. CELEBRATED EVERY FOUR YEARS AND ALTERNATING WITH THE OLYMPIC GAMES, THE ALLTECH FEI WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES WILL FEATURE THE FINEST ATHLETES FROM 76 NATIONS WHO WILL COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER IN THE EIGHT OFFICIAL FEI DISCIPLINES AND EXPECTED TO BE GIVING 500,000 VISITORS A GENUINE INSIGHT INTO THE EQUINE WORLD. IT WILL INDEED BE THE OCCASION FOR EVERYONE TO COME TOGETHER IN A TRULY EXCEPTIONAL PLACE.

THE GAMES VILLAGE IN THE HEART OF CAEN:

Located in Caen's city-centre, just a few minutes away from d'Ornano Stadium, the Zenith and the Prairie Racecourse, the Games Village will be the heart of the event for the crowd, competitors, and entertainers. Open from 11 am and until 10 pm, the Village will be accessible free of charge to everyone who has a ticket for one of the day's sporting competitions, and entry will be at the cost of just five Euros for anyone else. In total, the Village will offer more than 150 hours of

entertainment, spread over an area of 110,000m2 and with no fewer than 500 horses and 450 people in action on site. Horses will of course take centre stage, but the Norman region will also be honoured. The thousands of visitors expected will be invited to discover the shared history and culture of the horse and France's number one horsey region. The final phase of ticketing for the Games was open back in March and was a definitive stage since the Organising Committee put over 200,000 individual tickets on sale to the public.

ORGANISATION:

France organises more equestrian competitions than any other country in the world. The Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2014 in Normandy will showcase France's great expertise when it comes to hosting such major events. Given the Norman people's passion for horse and horse sports, it was natural for France and Normandy to want to host the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games. In France, more than two million people enjoy horse riding, and over a million of them are regular riders. The French



Haras du Pin, photo by Francois Decaens



The Hippodrome, photo by Francois Decaens



Organisers & volunteers



Dressage, photo by Nini Schabel



Polo, photo by CO. Normandie 2014



Horse ball, photo by Olivia Kohler/JuNiThi

Equestrian Federation boasts over 700,000 license holders and 7,800 clubs: it's the 3rd ranking French Olympic Federation, after those of football and tennis. The Organising Committee recruited more than 3,000 worldwide volunteers to help in make the Games a special experience. The founding members of this year's Games include: the French Government, the French Equestrian Federation, the Regional Council of Lower Normandy, the General Council of Calvados, The General Council of Manche, the General Council of Orne, the City of Caen, the Agglomeration Community of Caen la Mer, and the National Olympic and French Sports Committee. And alongside the Founders, adding to the success of the Games are the sponsors who are: Alltech as the title sponsor and Rolex, Land Rover, Sobha, France Télévisions and PMU as the official sponsors.

THE DISCIPLINES AND THE NATIONS:

Athletes and horses will compete against each other in eight official FEI disciplines: Jumping, Dressage, Eventing, Driving, Reining, Vaulting, Endurance, and Para-Dressage. This year's Games will also be featuring two demonstration disciplines for the general public to discover: Horse-Ball and Polo.

With the Entries in Principle, National Federations indicate in which disciplines they intend to participate with a team or individuals. These intentions do not guarantee the participation of each delegation but it however represents a significant first step within the entry process. Overall, no less than 76 National Federations (NFs) have declared their intention to participate in the Games. The number is an all-time high and represents a 15% increase compared to the entries in principle for any of the previous editions of the FEI World Equestrian Games™. Eight of those nations are Arab: Algeria with a Show Jumping Team,

Egypt with a Show Jumping Team, Jordan with a Show Jumping Team, Saudi Arabia with an Endurance and Show Jumping Team, Morocco with Reining, Dressage and Endurance Individuals as well as a Show Jumping Team, Oman with an Endurance Team, Qatar with Endurance and Show Jumping Teams, Syria with a Show Jumping Team, Tunisia with an Endurance Team - and last but not least, the United Arab Emirates with an Endurance and Show Jumping Team.

In addition, the Games will also add to the presence of Morocco by honouring the Barb horse and setting the stage for top Moroccan riders. Spectators will therefore get to learn about the breed during the sports competition, but also through the Opening Ceremony, and the Games' exhibitions in the Games Village.

THE ATMOSPHERE:

The Games will not just boast 15 days of competition, eight official disciplines, 27 gold medals, more than 76 participating nations, also featured will be the 'Alltech Music Festival' which will present eight evening concerts spread over the duration of the Games and is sure to add to the event's festivities. There will be music for all tastes thanks to the Festival's highly varied programme: disco with the legendary Kool and the Gang, pop-rock with The Lanskies, hip-hop with Casseurs Flowters and even an Irish evening with We Banjo 3. Well-known artists such as Aloe Blacc (I need a Dollar, Wake me Up), the cream of the American scene, and even Louis Bertignac, none other than the former guitarist of the group Téléphone, will be there, but many other artists from the local scene will also be on hand to give spectators a taste of different musical styles. And the "horsey" theme will also feature thanks to a country evening on 29 August, which will give spectators the opportunity to learn how to line



Show jumping, photo by FEI/Kit Houghton



Eventing, photo by KMSP Philippe Millereau



Endurance, KMSP Philippe Millereau



Reining, photo by FEI/Kit Houghton

dance, taught by the Caen Country Dance association.

LESS THAN 100 DAYS BEFORE THE GAMES BEGIN:

May 2014 marked a symbolic date with less than 100 days to go before the start of the Games in Normandy. To celebrate, the Organising Committee, the FEI, and French artist Christophe Dumont carved a unique piece of sand art on the Bay of Mont-Saint-Michel - one of the iconic and renowned locations in Normandy, which will host the Endurance race on Thursday 28 August. French artist Christophe

Dumont created a spectacular piece of sand art featuring a giant, 2.3 by 2.5 metre horse's hoof prints in a huge '100' on the famous Normandy beach. The artist and a team of 20 people battled against time and tide to produce the unique piece of artwork, so that it could be captured on camera before the waves washed it away. FEI President HRH Princess Haya was really impressed by this unique art work and stated, "The giant hoof prints on the beach at the Bay of Mont-Saint-Michel are a beautiful way to mark the 100-day countdown to the start of the Games, as it captures the free spirit of our wonderful partner, the horse.



Celebrating 100 days to go before the Games, photo by AFP/Jean-Sébastien Evrard

And everyone who rides horses knows that we spend a lot of time training in circles! The world's best horses and riders will be going for gold in Normandy so we can expect absolutely top sport. We are looking forward to these being the best Games yet."

A real challenge, but Fabien Grobon, CEO of the Normandy 2014 Organising Committee, remains very confident, "Normandy has a long-standing association with the horse and equestrianism, which is something we're very proud of. We're putting everything in place to welcome thousands of athletes,

horses and spectators, and we're getting ready to host an amazing celebration that we will never forget."

D'ORNANO STADIUM:

Construction work started on 19 May at Caen's d'Ornano Stadium, where the Opening Ceremony and all the Dressage and Jumping competitions will take place from 23 August to 7 September. Less than a week after the last football game played by Caen's team, the Organising Committee was given the stadium's keys for a period of four months. Actually, Norman the official mascot was given the



Zénith & Parc Expo, photo by Francois Decaens

giant key by Viking, Caen's football team's official mascot! Right after, the first construction teams then arrived on site and there was no minute to lose, as the Dressage and Jumping test events will be held from 23 to 26 June in order to test the facilities. With a capacity of 21,000 seats, the stadium will host some of the greatest event during the 2014 Games: the Opening Ceremony on Saturday 23 August, the Dressage competition from 25 to 29 August, the Jumping of the Eventing on Sunday 31 August, and the Jumping competition from 2 to 7 September. 🏆

For all inclusive information about the Games, see: www.normandy2014.com



Benoit Lemaire, photo by DR



Les falabellas de Pieric, photo by Francois Decaens



Kool & The Gang, photo by Silvia Mautner



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CAVALOR INTERVIEW WITH PETER BOLLEN

By Khaled Assem

IN MARKING ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY, CAVALOR FEED, SUPPLEMENTS AND CARE PRODUCTS CELEBRATES ADVANCES IN EQUINE HEALTH AND LONGEVITY, MUCH OF WHICH IT ASCRIBES TO SCIENTIFIC IMPROVEMENTS IN EQUINE NUTRITION. IN 1989, WHEN THE BELGIUM-BASED COMPANY WAS FOUNDED AS THE BRAINCHILD OF YOUNG AGRICULTURAL ENGINEER PETER BOLLEN, CAVALOR BASED ITS FORMULATIONS ON WHAT IN THOSE DAYS WAS AN INNOVATIVE WAY TO FEED HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORT HORSES – LOW PROTEIN AND HIGHER GOOD FATS. BOLLEN HAS BEEN A LIFETIME FRIEND SINCE 1989 WHEN WE MET AT THE STUDENT CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THE USA AND WE MAINTAINED OUR CONTACT SINCE THEN, EACH IN HIS OWN FIELD. HERE IS AN HT INTERVIEW WITH HIM IN WHICH HE GIVES HIS VIEWS ON HIS COMPANY, ITS ACHIEVEMENTS, AND FUTURE ASPIRATIONS.



Peter Bollen in a Trotter's race!



Bollen riding Cavalor Violet at CSI Herselt

When did your passion for horses start?

I started riding when I was 10 years old. At 12, I started working in a stable, cleaning boxes, and grooming the horses during competitions as to be able to pay for my riding. At 14, I competed in my first ever event, and at 16, I bought my first horse. At University, I was taking care of more than 10 horses on daily basis – also cleaning their boxes and cleaning them.

When did the idea of starting a business around horses come about?

Upon completing University, I was soliciting for a job as a nutritionist. I wanted to start at Vitamex where the owner Pieter Antoon Seghers and the CEO Patrick Keereman were horse lovers. During our first conversation, we developed a concept, “Why don’t we start a line for horses?” And so I did. I started from scratch and developed all products by myself. For several years, I developed products, built stands, packaged products, printed labels and personally delivered the product to customers.

Tell us about the landmarks of your career, from the start with equine vitamins to the founding of Cavalor which is internationally recognised?

Already at University I was very interested in Nutraceuticals, functional feeds and vitamins as to have the ability to combine my passion for horses with my main interest: nutraceuticals, functional feeds and vitamins in Cavalor. After 15 Years working for Vitamex, they gave me the opportunity to do a management buy-out, and to found, together with Lieselot Hamerlinck, ‘Nutriquine’, the owner of the brand Cavalor today.

Tell us about the challenges you face as the founder of Cavalor?

Every year there are new companies that come and sell horse supplements and care products, with very strong marketing, often very low prices, but products that do not work at all as after a few years, they disappear from the market. These companies kill the market and take the trust away from

customers. For this reason, Cavalor is putting so much effort into scientific research so that we have products that really work and that are based on serious research. Regulations for horse supplements and horse feed are changing very often. Consequently, we have to change our labels and packaging very often. The more international Cavalor becomes (today we sell in more than 50 countries), the more complicated the registrations become.

Tell us about the rewards you gained from Cavalor?

I travel all over the world to visit many happy Cavalor customers. Most serious customers involved in equestrian sport know the brand Cavalor. What makes me happy is when a product I have developed exceeds my expectations. Many equestrian champions are using Cavalor feed, feed supplements and care products on a daily basis.

Tell us about your family, if your children are involved with horses, or whether any of them would be interested in following your footsteps?

I have three children and they ride. Nomy,18, my eldest daughter, competes from time to time as she is a model with little time on her hands. Thibaut, 15, competes with ponies on International level. Malin,11.5, has completed her first international Pony Competition last weekend and achieved great results. My son and youngest daughter show interest in working for Cavalor in the future, but of course as they are young, this can change in a few years! My wife also competes, but is now coaching the kids and goes with them to shows.

What are your dreams and plans for the future of Cavalor?

To become a serious equine nutrition player in North America, where we have since last year a new horse feed production facility; to make Cavalor feed, supplements and care products available all over the world; to develop many innovative and great products, making a longer and better life for our horses, and to support many young riders and help them to become champions in the future. 🐾

All photos by Peter Van Den Bulck



At Jumping Antwerp



With the family



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CSI1* INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE KUWAIT RIDING CENTER

By Khaled Assem

FROM MARCH 20TH TO THE 22ND THE KUWAIT RIDING CENTER HOSTED ITS INTERNATIONAL CSI1* COMPETITION, THE FIRST SUCH COMPETITION SINCE THE EQUINE MOVEMENT BAN IMPOSED FOUR YEARS AGO FOLLOWING AN OUTBREAK OF GLANDERS. THE MOST FASCINATING THING WAS THE FESTIVE ATMOSPHERE AND AMIABLE BOND BETWEEN RIDERS, ORGANISERS AND SPECTATORS. THE GROUNDS ARE VERY ORIGINAL WITH CHEERFUL AND WELL-PLACED DESIGNS THAT MADE ATTENDEES FEEL THEY WERE ALWAYS AT THE CENTRE OF ALL THE ACTION. THE FOOTING WAS VERY GOOD ALONG WITH VERY COLOURFUL AND INVITING FENCES AND THE OVERALL PLAN INCLUDING LIGHTING EFFECTS, BRANDING, AND SPECTATOR AREAS WAS EVIDENCE THAT THE ORGANISERS WENT THROUGH A LOT OF PLANNING AND HARD WORK TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL SHOW. HERE ARE SOME QUOTES AND THOUGHTS FROM SEVERAL ORGANISERS AND RIDERS WHO WERE PRESENT.



Ali Al Khorafi riding Axios



Ahmed Talaat, Khaled Al Marzooq & Sheikh Ali Al Qassimi



Lama Abdul (Steward) & Karim Badaro (Judge)



Gemila Al Mutawa



Dina Al Baijan riding Ulura



Nabila Al Ali (Commentator), Jassim Al Khorafi, Former Speaker of Parliament Jassim Al Khorafi & Khalifa Al Khorafi



Adel Al Qaoud, Noora Al Qaoud & Sharon Al Qaoud



Karim Fares riding For Jump Z

KHALED AL MARZOOQ, EVENT ORGANISER:

“The idea of the whole event came up in summer 2013. We wanted to bring the sport back, with the problem of glanders and how it affected the sport. Some riders were reluctant to ride so we had the OK for the show in October 2013. We were working on national sponsors to resuscitate the sport. Our club was inaugurated in 1996 and we moved to our new location in 2001, we are always trying to develop the sport in cooperation with top riders such as Noaf Bin Essa and Ali Al Khorafi who is proof that the sport can excel and

develop with the support of private companies.

“For this show we had several sponsors including ourselves as the Kuwait Riding Center and we managed to just cover all costs. We built new facilities, arenas and we intend to continue. We realise the money or profits do not come from the first show yet we intend to continue on organising annual events bearing in mind that first and foremost, our main profit is the development of the sport in Kuwait.

“The biggest challenge I faced during organisation was getting all the details finalised with the FEI

and for that, we had to go through our local Federation, all in very little time. I had to spend the last three nights on the sofa at my office. We finally managed to invite around 24 foreign riders and for that I have to thank all the people who lent us horses, and all those who enthusiastically helped to make this show the success that it was.”

NOAF BIN ESSA, SHOW JUMPING TRAINER:

“It all started with Khaled Khalifa and Jasim Al Khorafi; we all put so much time and effort for things to be where they are today. I trained all the kids and new-comers here

at the Center at some point; they are not kids anymore and I am sure they will all make me proud. Nael Nassar and Ali Al Khorafi were basically kids, to see them now doing so well is very touching.

“Regarding the development of the Center, the idea behind its design came from Khaled Al Khorafi as he has plenty of artistic touches; he always wanted something very artistic, different yet practical. We went through years of designs and I actually still have the drawings. As you can see, the hills here where you can sit and view more than one arena and this touch of originality was a statement about

our heritage.

“As for this event, we’d love to host it annually as the glanders issue pushed everything back. Without the right financing we couldn’t go to the Arab League Tours. This show is a still a good start to show local sponsors that it can be done without involving the government. And this is just a one star show but it’s a good door opener and a good beginning. We’ll move on as people are getting the exposure of what it is to host an international show, while building it up to hopefully, be a five-star show. I am very satisfied with all the work as all the students and parents were

involved in organisation and that builds the identity needed for the riders such as Khaled Al Marzooq and Khaled Al-Kulaib”.

ALI AL KHORAFI, RIDER:

“We have been aspiring to have an international event here in our club for a while. There are difficulties, as you may be aware, yet we felt it was about time to join hands and get this show on the road. With people like Khaled Al Marzooq, the General Manager of the show, we were able to take on more challenges. Also, our sponsors were really keen on seeing a successful show. As such, we delivered a



Linn Skjetne with Robin



Kai Ottens & Laila Al Hanbali



Sheikh Yousef Al Sabah, Walid Mourad, Wael El Rewainy & Khaled Al Marzooq



Patricia Elizabeth Chan



Walid Mourad representing KDDC & Holland's Arnold Borekamps



Winners of the class with dignitaries & sponsors



Ali Al Khorafi, Shahad Al Moulah & Gemila Al Mutawa



Grand Prix winner Noora Al Qaoud riding Uranda B

good return on their investment as this was the first international event to take place here. We had to research what was done in the Middle East and we tried to be competitive in terms of quality. Our riders were the greatest inspiration; everyone helped and shared in the responsibilities, including the provision of horses, all to make this work. We are hoping to keep this an annual event even though this year we invested in the club's structure and in our contact with sponsors. Hopefully, next year the show can develop further."

NADIA AL MUTAWA, RIDER:

"At the first Asian Games where we

won three medals, we were 16, 17 and 19 years old – Sheikha Barah Al Sabah, Gemila and myself. It was the first big competition we went to and we were basically kids and girls at that time, we still had to carry weights so that was a different time all together. The year after that, the FEI discontinued that. Everyone here is working hard to achieve international results because compared to other countries we count on our own finances and nothing else; it's harder here."

AHMED TALAAT, COURSE DESIGNER:

"The footing here is great, the

fences are very good even though a round arena is not the easiest to work with, yet mostly the people are very friendly and that is what makes a show more remarkable.

"When coming to a new show and not being familiar with riders' and horses' levels, plus the fact that the horses are borrowed for foreign riders, I always have a trial on the first day. I never build it big but I ask some technical questions to the riders. I go for a bit of technicality, but mostly I go for safety. On the second day I design the courses to be less technical but a bit bigger so I can test the quality of the horses. I don't reach the technicality of the last day or its height, but I have a

pretty good idea of what I will build for the Grand Prix.

"Other factors I take into consideration include the entrance to the arena as it is a possible factor of difficulty. If you have a difficult line in the direction of the entrance gate it is more encouraging for the horses to jump it because it is towards home. The opposite is more difficult. Similarly, the water jump towards home is easier than the opposite.

"We are definitely here for the sport and for entertainment, so some jumping lines have to be in front of the audience or next to the VIP area. The ground is a vital

factor because it can affect the stride of the horse if it's deep and heavy, it will also affect the spring where his power will be dispersed rather than more bouncy. Whereas if the footing is solid then I tend to put bigger distances and possibly, heights. Moreover, I put a small upright next to the screen on the first day to introduce horses to it so that I can be free to put fences anywhere during the Grand Prix. I care very much about building safe courses that are fun to ride yet still show the ability to define better riders and better horses."

GEMILA AL MUTAWA, RIDER:

"I have three children, two

daughters and a boy, so I am a full time mum and wife. I cannot compete internationally anymore but locally I still am able to enjoy riding and competing. My son has started riding and his father Hamad Al Dabbous and I are behind him to see him compete on the international scene; I have nice horses and Kristian Johannesson is our trainer. The hunting and equestrian club did an international event four years ago when there was no horse ban. Now it's much more difficult so special thanks to all who have put in hard work to make this show possible. We would also like to thank all the foreign riders who accepted the invitation to come to Kuwait and we would



Alaa Al Sultan



Group Picture of Organising Committee & FEI Officials



Sheikh Dr. Mohammed Al Sabah (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs) & Jassim Al Khorafi



Sheikh Yousef Al Sabah



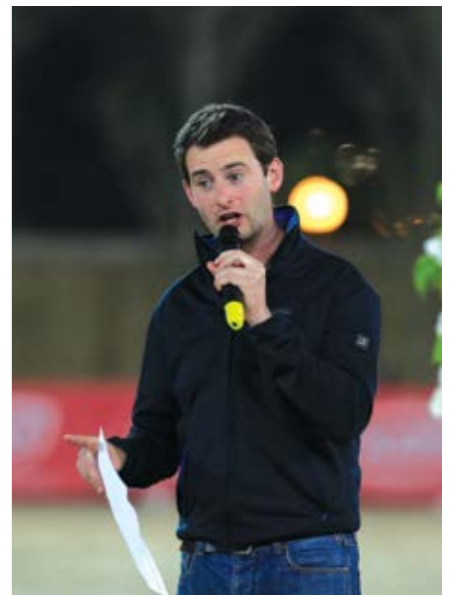
Shahad Al Moulah & her father Hamad Al Moulah



Ali Al Khorafi, Noora Al Qaoud & Karim Fares



Laila Al hanbali, Ali Al Khorafi, Abdulrahman Al Fuzae, Gemila Al Mutawa & Latifa Al Othman)



Frederik De Backer, Belgian commentator

like to encourage our organisers to make this an annual event. And for our young riders, we wish that they always show enthusiasm when riding, get good training, travel and learn different philosophies and become good ambassadors for Kuwait.

“Regarding support for the development of the sport locally, we help young riders as much as we can, and we advise them to keep their calm because some get very anxious during shows. We sponsor some of the local events and we try to educate riders about

various topics such as saddlery, horse and stable management, and all the elements that precede being in the ring.

DINA AL BAJAN, RIDER:

“Due to the glanders issue, my training programme was in decline. I used to be a more active international competitor however I am now focused on local sport. Basically we have around 50 riders in every class and the standard is very good, yet psychologically it is not as motivating when you keep competing against the same

crowd. We have four shows over two days on a monthly basis; surely the more exposure on new grounds against different riders and gaining further experience would help riders get more motivated and start implementing their learnt skills once back at home. This also affects our sponsors and it becomes less feasible to invest in new horses when there are less demands; it’s simply a low tide. We have been trying to highlight this sport, expose it more to the media as you may have seen here at the show.

“We would really love for the horse ban to be lifted. I have faith it will be lifted and feel positive about once again participating in the Arab League. And even though I have two children, I would still like to compete again. In the meantime, I will continue working at keeping my skills sharp through local shows and clinics.”

KARIM FARES, RIDER:

“I am settled in Holland and running my own yard now. I visit Lebanon often where I give clinics and I don’t miss any invitations to the

Middle East because I like being amongst friends. The show has been great and unfortunately the closed borders keep the number of riders for the higher level more reserved, yet the atmosphere is fantastic, the footing is well done and the facilities are extremely good.”

SHEIKH ALI AL QASSIMI, RIDER:

“I am happy to be here in Kuwait with all my fellow riders and friends. You know that some of them have stopped riding in the Arab League due to the ban. And as this is a

borrowed horse event, I am riding two horses, one for the small tour and the other for the big. One really needs to adapt to the horse as they cannot be fully changed in three days. The club is fantastic, the grounds are great and most importantly the atmosphere is very welcoming.”

The Grand Prix was won by Kuwait's Noora Al Qaoud riding Uranda B, with Kuwait's Ali Al Khorafi riding Ulaan in 2nd place, and Lebanon's Karim Fares riding For Jump Z in 3rd place.



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Equi•Theme

The horse day after day



modern event with the old-world charm of a century ago. The culmination of 16 weeks of high-goal winter polo filled with thrills, surprises and world-class sport was a breath-taking white-knuckle final match battle between near-equals Mannix's Alegria and Bob Jornayvaz's Valiente, a result of last-minute rider misfortune, quick changes and lucky team coalescence.

We have Alegria facing the fight of the American season to block a Triple Crown bid by Valiente and to win the highest polo prize in America. We have Valiente with wins over Alegria in the run-up tournaments, the C.V. Whitney Cup and the Piaget USPA Gold Cup, so close to the coveted Triple Crown they could probably taste it. And we have an amazing venue and backstory

to this year's U.S. Open Polo Championship Final.

THE INTERNATIONAL POLO CLUB PALM BEACH:

Arriving in Palm Beach and very excited to take an early preview look at the U.S. Open Polo Championship grounds and get a feel for the area, we decided to explore a bit in the Village of Wellington, 20 miles west of Palm Beach, not only the home of the International Polo Club Palm Beach but also the host of both the largest and longest running horse show in the world, the Winter Equestrian Festival, and more than forty weeks of equestrian competitions per year, including the Global Dressage Festival. It is truly a major international equestrian destination for multiple horse

sport competitions and a magnet for the stars of the horse world, sport and film. The Village of Wellington is well known for its settled equestrian community.

The International Polo Club (IPC) is most impressive, reached by means of a palm-lined lane, built in the breezy white-washed Old Florida style with terra cotta tiled roofs over the buildings and shade for the spectator areas. In addition to the three state-of-the-art polo fields, the club offers a pool, spa, and the famous Mallet Grille Patio, where the elite of Palm Beach County brunch on Sundays.

MUSEUM OF POLO AND HALL OF FAME:

On the way to the IPC grounds we found the comprehensive and fascinating Museum of Polo and

110TH MASERATI U.S. OPEN POLO CHAMPIONSHIP A STUNNING WIN BY MANNIX'S ALEGRIA

By Bridget McArdle McKinney

IT WAS ALL LIKE A DREAM OR AN INCREDIBLY CHIC ON-CULTURE NOVEL OR A LAVISH HOLLYWOOD PRODUCTION – AND IT INVOLVED MY FAVORITE HORSE SPORT POLO AND I WAS IN IT! THE U.S. OPEN EXPERIENCE IN PALM BEACH IS SO AMAZING THAT THE ONLY WAY TO TRULY APPRECIATE IT IS TO JUST RELAX, ACCEPT THE IMPROBABLE, DRINK THE CHAMPAGNE, AND ENJOY THE ACTION.

This was the 110th running of the 26-goal U.S. Open Polo Championship, America's highest ranked and most prestigious polo tournament and her only WPT Grand Slam event, sponsored by Maserati

and hosted by the groomed and gracious International Polo Club Palm Beach in late April.

In 1904, the gentlemen of the Wanderers Team met and beat the Meadowbrook Freebooters

at genteel Meadowbrook Polo Club in Old Westbury, New York in the first U.S. Open Polo Championship ever. Fast forward to the 2014 U.S. Open Polo Championship in Wellington, Florida, a powerful high-tech



Bob Jornayvaz (Valiente) Hilario Ulloa (Alegria)

Hall of Fame, a rich repository dedicated to the preservation of the grand history and tradition of the sport of polo for the generations of the future. We were lucky to walk in and be greeted by the Executive Director of the Museum, former polo player, very knowledgeable polo expert and really nice guy with a lot of insider polo information, George J. DuPont, Jr., who introduced us to the Museum, explaining that the Museum began as a vision of four polo players, H. Jeremy Chisholm, Phillip L. B. Iglehart, Leverett S. Miller, and George C. Sherman, Jr., who had dreamed of establishing a place to honour and preserve the history of the sport.

Soon to expand even further, the Museum is home to an extensive collection of historic documents

and physical treasures which include extraordinary works of art, magnificent trophies, artefacts, books, statistical records, periodicals, films, videos, recordings and much polo memorabilia, a real treat for polo aficionados, not to be missed on any trip to the area.

STOP WITH THE TOURISM AND GET TO THE FINALS!

Okay, but first there's the back-story. Coming into the semi-finals in a match against Lechuza Caracas, Valiente (Bob Jornayvaz, Santi Torres, Sapo Caset and star 10-goaler Adolfo Cambiaso) was very well placed to make it into the finals and was the clear favourite for many, but early in the first chukka, disaster struck - Cambiaso was bumped hard reviving a previous injury.

After a valiant try to carry on, Cambiaso retired and he and Jornayvaz were subbed by Carlitos Gracida and Brazilian 8-goaler Rodrigo Andrade. Understandably, the 'team-on-the-fly' had their problems coalescing and establishing the necessary solidarity to work as a unified team, but they came together in the third chukka and never looked back ending with a thrilling and improbable 15 – 11 win for Valiente putting the team in the final and a run at the cup.

Adolfo's retirement from the tournament put the pundits into a bit of a tizzy. Who would substitute for Adolfo in the Final? With only a limited number of 10-goalers available to take Adolfo's place, what was Jornayvaz going to do? There were questions also of whether any of the players in



Team Alegria



Easter Egg Hunt

the tournament could play on the Valiente team without violating the USPA rules. As it turned out, to huge relief Lechuza Caracas' Juan Martin Nero was announced by Jornayvaz to substitute just two days before the final match. Once Lechuza Caracas was eliminated in the semifinals, its 10-goaler Juan Martin became eligible to replace Cambiaso in the Valiente lineup and things got really interesting. People were saying that without Adolfo, the teams were pretty equally balanced. Anyone could take the cup now.

On the morning of the Final, Easter Sunday April 20, the very fun, hospitable and efficient event organizers, Venue Marketing Group, and in particular VMG's Enid Atwater, generously invited us to join them for a deluxe lobster and caviar brunch at the IPC's Mallet Grille and ushered

us into the Maserati hospitality tent for champagne and then settled us into our comfortable box seats with one of the best views of the field of any.

The throng of post-brunch feathers, fashions, champagne flutes, boaters, fedoras, and floaty summer frocks drifted into its seats. The battle of the Titans was about to begin.

In what has been called 'all-out polo' (by polo journalist par excellence Alex Webbe), Alegria defeated Valiente 11-10 with the winning overtime goal scored by Hilario Ulloa. It was truly championship polo at its finest, with the score alternating between the two elite teams throughout six action-packed chukkas. The sold-out, record-breaking crowds cheered on their favourites with unbridled enthusiasm, the action and the crowds duly filmed

by flying camera drones and broadcast on the big screen. The Alegria team were awarded the prestigious Maserati U.S. Open Polo Championship trophy at the jubilant tournament presentation in front of thousands of fans and friends. Zavaleta was awarded the MVP award while Ulloa's Mia received Best Playing Pony honours.

Polo fans, players, and patrons celebrated the winners, the match, and the tournament dancing the night away in the clubhouse and toasting another successful and Palm Beach polo season. 🍷

For a recap of the Maserati U.S. Open's final match, please watch the following video produced by Pololine:

<http://vimeo.com/92754707>.

Photos by Alex Pacheco

SALON DU CHEVAL D'EL JADIDA 2014

THE CONTINUATION OF SUCCESS

By Nada H. Abdelmoniem

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 THE PRETTIEST TO THE EYES OF MANY, BUT A SYMBOL OF DELIGHT TO THE HEARTS OF ALL.

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 Prince Moulay Abdellah Alaoui. And under the direct supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture, the seventh 2014 edition of the Salon will take place on October 21st and last until the 26th, 100 kilometres away from the capital Casablanca in the city of El Jadida.

El Jadida has become famous in the national equestrian tradition where more than 1,000 riders from different Jahawiya (regions) of the Kingdom gather. Dedicated entirely

to highlight the importance of the horse, the Salon will display a holistic programme aimed at gathering and federating the equine industry as well as entertaining the public. The Salon is built over a vast area of nearly 45,000 square meters with areas designated for children's activities, indoor equestrian shows, Tbourida, press area, and a food court, attracting the interest of more than 15,000 daily visitors who applaud the celebration of their national traditions. Further to the outdoor Tbourida, the third international show jumping event of the annual Morocco Royal Tour CSI3*-W also takes place indoors, in addition to conferences and an exhibition, an international 'A' Arabian horse show, the National Arab-Barb horse

and the International Barb horse Championships. Salon du Cheval D'El Jadida 2014 has become an annual and essential equestrian tradition for the Kingdom; warm welcomes and hospitalities are not spared and showcasing the solid evolvement of a well-organised event is what the organisers aim to highlight. 

For more information about the Salon, see www.salonducheval.ma

To read more articles about the Salon written by HT, see www.horsetimesegypt.com and search for Morocco.

Photo of Tbourida horsemen by Driss Ben Malek



THE ABOGABALS

LIKE FATHER LIKE SON

By Nada H. Abdelmoniem



Ahmed Abogabal developed a passion for horse riding at an early stage when he was ten years old, while watching his friend competing in dressage at Shams Club. He started training for dressage first and then show jumping with Gen. Youssef Ghorab at El Basateen. Father of two sons, Abogabal has big plans for his eldest Mohamed and stated, "From my observation of Mohamed riding horses, I feel that being on a horse has given him a sense of commitment and responsibility, of being careful and thinking before making any decisions. There's no doubt that it made him a more dedicated person while also adding modesty and appreciation towards others' efforts - which is great for someone his age."

In support of his father's observations, Mohamed described his training programme with Ahmed Sabry at the Gezira Club. "My trainer, also known as 'Kimo', gives me useful information about riding. He is a hard worker and he has plenty of experience. He takes care of his horses and treats them well, and he invests in them to be able to get the best results. He also spends time with me after every competition to mentor me on my mistakes and help me work on them."

Abogabal senior continued by saying that he believed horsemanship would genuinely contribute to his son's character. "When individuals become more involved in equestrian sport and start to win, they develop this big sense of self-importance which doesn't lead to the best of results



in the longer run. However, true horsemanship helps riders to acquire modesty and to appreciate their mistakes and weaknesses and admit them.”

Abogabal junior won locally with Quickbreak – 4th place in the 2012 F-Class. In 2013 he won with Cando – 5th place/under 14-years D-Class and Carnival – 4th place in the E-Class. In 2014, Abogabal won 1st place/under 16-years C-Class with Calvados, with an overall ranking of 2nd place – plus in the B-Class with Cando, he was placed 6th/under 18-years. We asked him if he deserved all those wins and he modestly declared, “My competitors were Omar Adel and Ahmad Nagy and I think that Ahmed deserved to win even though he came late this season.”

Envisioning the future for his son, Abogabal senior explained that he is encouraging his son to keep his eyes on a very big goal and to try to reach it, as well as to never give up his ambitions or to feel that there’s nothing more he can do to improve. He continued, saying, “I hope that Mohamed one day qualifies for the Olympics. We are going to do our best to reach that goal as even now at an early stage, I try my best to send him to camps abroad to learn from people with experience, to purchase for him better horses, and to allow him to enter different international competitions because competing only locally is not enough.”

Even though Abogabal junior favours the “German Gun” Marcus Ehning for the reason that he has great riding style and experience and has progressed quickly in his career, the person who really has the greatest impact on him is his father. He explained, “My father is the person who has the biggest impact on me. And one



© Saleh Mostafa Lotfy

day, I hope to participate at the Olympics, the FEI World Cup and Spruce Meadows. To reach my goals I will work very hard, I will ride consistently, I will be serious and dedicated, and I will also try

to improve my technical abilities by attending clinics all over the world and train on different horses. This is what my father has been teaching me to aim for.”



THE LIGHTHOUSE OF ALEXANDRIA

Limited Edition



Pelikan 



AL. KHALEDIAH ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014

THE HORSE AS “LIVING ART”

By Bridget McArdle McKinney



Silver Stallion PCF Vision Senior Males

ALTHOUGH SCHEDULED DURING THE EGYPTIAN KHAMASEEN SEASON OF VARIABLE WEATHER WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF RAIN AND SAND STORMS AND COMING AS WELL DURING A PERIOD OF NATIONAL RECOVERY AND CHALLENGES, THE AL KHALEDIAH ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD FROM 27 THROUGH 29 MARCH BROUGHT THREE DAYS OF RELIEF - LIGHT BREEZES, BEAUTIFUL SUNSHINE AND CALM AND PEACEFUL AMBIENCE – AND THE BEST OF THE ARABIAN HORSE BREED IN EGYPT TO SEE.

Held at the famed Rabab Stud owned and operated by Sheikh Khaled bin Laden, this venue has been host to Arabian horse shows, the so-called 'beauty shows', since 2010 when it presented a 'C' National show with over 200 of the best Arabian horses

in the Middle East. This was followed by two 'C' International shows in 2011 and 2012 and a 'B' International show last October.

This year's very successful Al Khalediah Arabian Horse 'C'

International Championships are the culmination of years of effort, experience, organisation, planning and careful execution with an eye to new improvements, ideas and technology. Nothing was spared in the presentation and hospitality of

the Championships this time around.

Sheikh Khaled's love of Arabian horses and breeding started in the early 1980's and his programme and his stud have grown from strength to strength and have produced the excellent Rabab horse line. Sheikh Khaled compares breeding to art and music. "I am trying to create a symphony with the horse", he says. "It is like a composition where you take elements from many sources to form a piece of living art that must be harmonious. One of the older breeders here in Egypt once said that the Arabian horse is a moving tableau."

Yes, it's true....it is art, but Sheikh Khaled has also brought high technology to the sport as well. Electronic judging is the beauty parade's newest move to the future. We're used to old-fashioned pencil-and-paper manual numerical rating, rough addition, averaging, and totaling – and the long wait for results. The judges at the Al Khalediah Championships carried electronic devices and each score on each of the four rating categories was posted on the big board and tallied in real-time. As soon as the judges marked the scores all of the owners, handlers, and attendees knew exactly the final score on the

instant – and it was simultaneously posted on-line!

HORSE TIMES applauds the continuing efforts and success of the Arabian horse breeding community and has faith in the future of this community and this sport in Egypt. 🇪🇬

The full roster of the Champions may be found at: www.arabianhorseresults.com

Photos by Ahmed Nashaat El-Hamadany



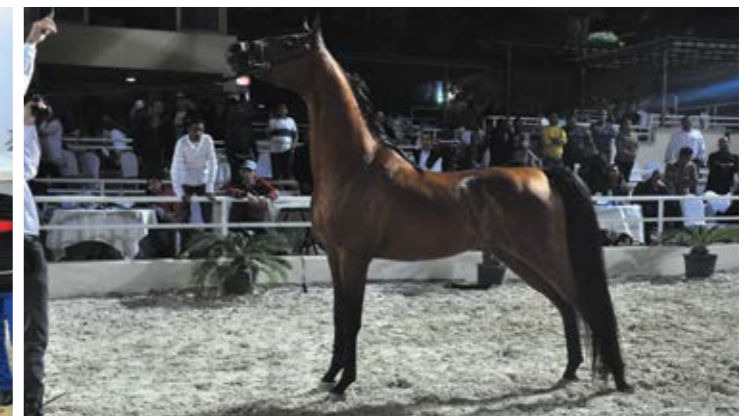
Gold colt yearling males, Sahn El Kahera



Sheikh Mutlaq bin Mushrif, with HRH Prince Turki & Prince Saud bin Sultan Al Saud



Sheikh Khaled bin Laden & Rabab Team



Gold stallion junior males Mazen El Badayer



Silver filly yearling females, Karima El Rayyan Misr



Nashaat Hegazy & Ahmed Abdelrazik



Al Khalediah Organisers



Silver mare senior females, Mohga Saqr



Gold stallion senior males, Adham Saqr



Al Khalediah Judges



Nabila Al Ali & Huet Regis



Sheikh Khaled bin Laden & Al Khalediah Organising Team



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60 SECONDS WITH NAJIB CHAMI

COUNTRY: LEBANON

DATE OF BIRTH: AUGUST 26, 1965

STAR SIGN: VIRGO

PROFESSIONS: FINANCIAL AND MARKETING CONSULTANT, OWNER OF AN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL COMPANY, SHOW JUMPING TRAINER, RIDER, AND JUDGE, CHEF D'EQUIPE AND MANAGER OF THE UKRAINIAN SHOW JUMPING TEAM.



WE GOT TO KNOW NAJIB CHAMI IN 1997 IN EGYPT DURING INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE IN SHARM EL SHEIKH. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MAGAZINE KHALED ASSEM, A FRIEND TO NAJIB, STATES "I HAVE ALWAYS ADMIRERD HIS INTELLIGENCE AS HE IS A SUCCESSFUL HORSEMAN, AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED JUDGE AND AN INTERNATIONAL TRAINER, WHICH IS ITSELF GREAT ACHIEVEMENT."

What is your best achievement?

Winning several show jumping series of National Cups with the Ukrainian show jumping team, and being Lebanese team manager during the 1997 Arab Games and the 2006 Asian Games.

Who is your sporting hero (any sport)?

John Whitaker and Wladimir Klitschko.

Do you keep any pets?

Yes! Dogs, cats, fish, a hamster and birds.

What is your favourite movie?

The Godfather.

Who is your ideal celebrity (female or male)?

Bill Gates.

What is your favourite gadget and are you obsessed with it?

My Iphone.

What kind of music do you enjoy listening to and do you like to dance?

French classics. And yes, I love to dance.

What is your second favourite sport?

Basketball.

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

'The Prophet' by Khalil Gibran, who is also my favourite author.

Do you like to cook and what is your favourite food?

I love cooking. I Like Lebanese and Italian cuisines.

What is the most memorable place you ever visited?

Capri, Italy.

What is your strength and what is your weakness?

My strength: my calmness. My weakness: the tears in someone's eyes.

What makes you happy and what makes you sad?

Feeling everything is controlled and organised makes me happy. Making wrong decisions makes me sad.

What is the biggest challenge you ever faced?

Marriage.

something, what would you change?

I would like to change people's judgements on each other so they could accept the variety in differences, especially in religion.

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

The perfection that I always try to reach.

Currently, if you were not doing the professions you are doing, where



What is the biggest reward you ever got?

My family.

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

The man of decision and one to count on.

If you had the power to change

would you rather be working?

In surgical medicine.

Finally, which question would you ask yourself?

What would you do differently if you knew that nobody would judge you?

SELECT INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN SPONSORSHIP

PART 4: KARIM ABDELFATTAH

By Khaled Assem

IN HT'S SERIES OF INTERVIEWS WITH FOUR EGYPTIAN SHOW JUMPING RIDERS SPONSORED BY SPSS, WE CONTINUE WITH THE FOURTH RIDER, KARIM ABDELFATAH. SPSS EGYPT, AN IBM COMPANY AND A LEADING GLOBAL PROVIDER OF PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS SOFTWARE AND SOLUTIONS, STARTED SPONSORING LOCAL RIDERS IN 2009 AND HAS BEEN DOING SO EVER SINCE.

You are being sponsored by SPSS; what does it add to your training programme?

The agreement includes the provision of riding gear.

While being sponsored by SPSS,

how do you feel about social exposure?

I think yes. It is quite socially enriching and the idea of publicity is useful.

Why do you think you were chosen

to be sponsored by SPSS?

It's friendship as much as anything else. Riding is not only about results, it is also about behaviour; I could add value to the team and to Shady's vision. I have been riding in the A-Class for two years now and it



Abdelfattah riding Dina



could be that Shady possibly aimed at picking hard-working riders who invest in their training programmes, aspire to achieve results, and were able to prove themselves in such a short time.

What were some of your best results to date? Not necessarily big wins, but courses where you felt that you and the horses did very well?

The World Cup Qualifiers in Jordan two years ago was my first big win where I was placed 6th; this was one good moment for me in the sport. Also, during the 2012 CSI1*- Cairo HORSES & HOPES International Show Jumping Festival, the Big Tour was one of the biggest classes I had ridden and I was proud of my results as I only had one down.

What are your plans for the future?

Riding to me is an inspirational process that changes my life for the better. I would have loved to

achieve big results but it needs time and mileage. Of course I'd love to compete in Arab League events, however due to the ongoing horse ban I am unable to travel with my horses. I had planned two years ago that after I go to Germany with my horses, I would compete at the Arab League, however that has not materialised. Now I've sent my horses abroad through Jordan and they're currently in Belgium. I'm hoping that next year I'll be able to fulfil my initial plans regarding competition.

Tell us something about your family?

I have a seven-year-old daughter, Nazly, and two sons: Taymour who is five years old and Mansour who is two. They all adore horses and so does their mum Sherifa. I hope that my three little bundles of joy take on professional riding in the future.

Tell us about your breeding programme; is your programme

more a business or is it more for the love of the sport?

It's for the love of the sport; it wasn't a financial initiative at all. Sherifa loves horses and she wanted to breed them, so I got her two horses and she started from there. Having said that, now with horse prices abroad so high, I am planning to locally produce good horses for the future as currently I only have two young good ones. This will also be a great investment for the kids.

Do you feel that the sponsor is getting good response – and if not, what kind of improvements would you suggest?

To tell you the truth I had hoped that the idea would spread and more sponsors would appear. The idea of sponsorship is a great one for the sport and to develop it, more companies could potentially appear on the sponsorship scene, sponsor other teams and riders, and competition between them could



Abdelfattah's young ones, Nazly & Mansour



Mrs. Abdelfattah

take place. This could be progress of a different kind for the local industry.

What do you think of this year's season and what would you suggest to improve future ones?

Well, to be honest, this year's season did not show the dynamism we were looking forward to and I would like to see more progress with the sport even though I understand that Egypt is currently going through an unstable political and economic phase. However, the sport must continue and more international events should be organised. This year's season was as stagnant as that which took place two years ago; unfortunately, nothing was added to the sport this season.

Are you saying that the Egyptian Equestrian Federation (EEF) should give the private sector a chance to organise events?

Yes, this is what happened when SPSS started this sponsorship initiative. The EEF supported the concept and was going to organise two annual events for teams between companies that have a sponsorship programme. It was a great idea and

it was going to attract more people.

What would you like to say to young riders competing in C and D classes?

I would like to tell them that this sport is not like any other sport, it's you and the horse together. Enjoy it whether you win or lose. Be dedicated and stick to your plans

Would you advise people to go attend clinics abroad or get someone to train them here?

Both have to be done. In the past we had two Arab League events in Egypt; as such many international riders and trainers would be present. But once again, due to the ban, we have to try our best to travel, as persons not even as riders anymore, in order to gain basic exposure and experience. The world is advancing, however due to current circumstances we aren't.

What's your message for the management of El Gezira Club regarding equestrian sport?

It's an expensive sport and the rider has to be able to afford it to achieve

what he wants; so the club can't do anything about the rider's personal expenses, but they should provide more facilities. There was a plan before to develop and improve the place, and to make the riding arenas bigger to be able to hold international events and this should be carried out. There is some kind of progress but we still have a long way to go. 🙏

ABOUT SPSS: *Founded in 1968, today SPSS has more than 250,000 customers worldwide, served by more than 1,200 employees in 60 countries. Smart Vision (SPSS-ME) is an IBM partner following the IBM acquisition of SPSS Inc. and assists a wide variety of customers in the region in different business areas, playing the role of helping researchers in getting deeper insight into their existing data and applying these insights and forecasts at both the strategic and tactical levels to a number of critical business problems.*

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DUBAI POLO GOLD CUP 2014 BACK HOME AGAIN IN THE UAE

By Bridget McArdle McKinney

RETURNING TO DUBAI FOR THE BENTLEY EMIRATES GOLD CUP IN MARCH WAS A LITTLE LIKE COMING HOME - FRIENDLY FAMILIAR FACES, THE USUAL WARM WELCOME, CATCHING UP ON NEWS AND GOSSIP WITH POLO PALS, AND IMMEDIATE OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE AND CONTACTS, ALL EXPECTATIONS OF THE LEVEL OF SERVICE AND INFORMATION MET AND EXCEEDED. IN THE FIVE YEARS SINCE ITS INAUGURAL, THE 16-GOAL DUBAI POLO GOLD CUP HAS DEFINITELY HIT ITS STRIDE AND FOUND ITS MÉTIER AS A SOLID WELL-ORGANISED AND ACCESSIBLE EVENT. I WAS HAPPY TO BE BACK ONCE AGAIN AND OBSERVE THE NEXT STAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS IMPORTANT CHALLENGE CUP EVENT ON THE GLOBAL POLO ITINERARY.



Ghantoot Bentley Emirates Champions



Mahra vs Abu Dhabi



Mahra Power Horse Cup Champion



Bin Draï vs Desert Palm



Ghantoot team

As always the opportunity to arrive early enough to witness the semi-finals is a huge benefit in helping to understand the state of play, strengths, weaknesses, horses, and player line-up and capabilities before the final big day. It is not enough to be aware of what is happening, it is essential to see and feel it in person.

I arrived on the first day of the semi-finals to see Mahra Polo and Dubai Polo each earn a berth in the Power Horse Cup Subsidiary Final, which ultimately went to Rashid Al

Habtoor's Mahra Polo 8 to 7.

Tuesday, however, was the big day for me, especially the first match which pitted my two favourite teams, Mohamed Habtoor's Habtoor Polo (Mohamed Habtoor 0, F. Elizalde 7, Guillermo Cuitino 6, M. Panelo 3) and HH Sheikha Maitha bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's UAE Polo (HH Sheikha Maitha 0, Ollie Cudmore 5, Lucas Monteverde 9, T. Gagliardi 2) against each other for a place in the Gold Cup Final, which Habtoor took 10 to 5 ½.

In the second match of the day, Ghantoot ADCB Polo (Ali Al Merri, Oscar Colombres, Facundo Sola 8, Pelayo Berazadi 4) pipped Desert Palm Polo 2 (T. Al Bawadi 1, S. LaBorde 5, A. Taranco 6, M. Machado 4) seven to six giving Ghantoot the right to fight for the Gold Cup on Saturday.

This left the Cup Final to Ghantoot and Habtoor, two well-manned and well-matched teams wanting that Gold Cup. Ghantoot took control of the game from the first chukka despite some active push-

back by Habtoor in the last seven minutes to close the gap to only two goals, but Ghantoot took the Bentley Emirates Gold Cup, the most important tournament of the season in the United Arab Emirates, by a 7-5 score. The Ghantoot team brought home a second precious metal trophy in a row at the Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series 2014 after also winning the McLaren Silver Cup. Berazadi was named the Most Valuable Player of the Final and Cenicienta, ridden by Facundo Sola, was named the Best Pony of the game.

Okay, I will admit that I was a bit star-struck this time to meet some of the players in person and I suppose that it may also be true that I'm probably the oldest polo groupie on the planet. But when you consider the physical, mental, psychological and financial resources that come into play in a sport which combines the very best of human endeavour with the very best of horse endeavour, then maybe I can be excused for my enthusiasm.

After a record 10 teams taking part

during the series, and a superb level of competition being played throughout, the Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series continues to grow on the international polo calendar. The Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club is certainly one of the most attractive spots in the world for polo and next year, with the handicap level increasing to 18 goals, I'm guessing that the best players (Palm Beach – beware!) and great polo are guaranteed to be there. I'll be. 🏇

Photos by Gonzalo Etcheverry

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Photo by Cymon Taylor

Anky van Grunsven & Salinero

THE ART OF CLASSICAL DRESSAGE RIDING

THE RHYTHM

By Emmad Eldin Zaghoul

NUNO OLIVEIRA USED TO CONSTANTLY TELL HIS PUPILS TO “LOOK FOR THE RHYTHM” MEANING FOCUS ON THE RHYTHM. HE DID NOT TELL THEM TO SPEED UP OR TO SLOW DOWN AS HE KNEW IT WAS UP TO THE RIDER TO FEEL THE RIGHT RHYTHM AND LEARN TO CONTROL IT. WE READ ARTICLES AND DRESSAGE THEORIES ABOUT HOW RHYTHM IS FUNDAMENTAL TO DRESSAGE TRAINING AND THE BASIS FOR EVERYTHING ELSE, BUT ESTABLISHING THIS FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE IS DEEPLY PERSONAL AND, OF COURSE, EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.

speed and length of stride that give him the setup to find his balance. On my young horse, if I go too slow, he feels like he achieves more swing in the back yet his hind legs begin to slow down and loose activity. Alternatively, if I go too fast, he loses the natural swing in the back and while he may be more active, he is not achieving the feeling that he is using his entire body with every stride. Thus the difficulty lies in creating the swing but maintaining the activity. If you can tick both boxes then concentrate, because that is the rhythm you should be trying to maintain in all your training.

Often overlooked, the importance of establishing a clear rhythm at the beginning of each lesson does not start when you commence the trot. I have found that when I work the walk and really think about establishing those four clear even beats, that I have the foundation ready so when I begin the trot work, we are both already in the rhythmic frame of mind. Don't mosey on out into the arena and flop about in walk while your mind's off with the fairies, then suddenly expect to start the trot in a good tempo.

For riders working more advanced schoolmasters, they may be lucky to have a horse that already has a training track he plays in his head. However, young horses are especially tricky to find the right rhythm.

“Finding the right rhythm on a young horse is a question of tempo and every horse has a speed where they find their best balance. This speed normally lies somewhere between collected and working trot,” said Jan Bemelmans. “As every horse has a unique morphology dependent on the horse's conformation, hind quarters, back, balance, contact, and temperament, so each horse has its own unique rhythm. When the horse is young, you should simply aim to ride low, long and with a forward tendency. This should not be difficult. The horse will then tell you when you have found the right rhythm by feeling good and you

will notice that he will easily keep that rhythm and come into a light contact.”

Stressing the importance of a good contact in relation to finding the right rhythm Jan also checks for a forward movement of the hind legs over the back, moving into the hand of the rider with an equal contact on both reins.

Former Dutch team rider Gonnellen Rothenberger adds that usually every young horse has a rhythm by nature and it is up to us as riders to foster this natural speed. “You must concentrate to keep this natural rhythm and to never disturb it,” said Gonnellen. “I feel the right rhythm of my horse when the footfalls stay constant. A sound dressage horse has three correct rhythms: a four-beat in walk, a two-beat in trot and a three-beat in canter.”

Knowing that without rhythm a rider cannot educate a horse, Gonnellen has learnt that rhythm is more difficult with some horses than with others but that training cannot progress without this vital component. “The greatest challenge I had with rhythm was with Konrad in the simply change of leg. He was always a horse who wanted to ‘go,’ and it was difficult for me to keep him relaxed and in the right rhythm in the walk steps between the canter. I slowly learned that, if I was able to control his tempo, he kept his rhythm in the walk.”

Agreeing that the greatest sign of good rhythm is the rider's contact with the bit, Gonellien said that the rhythm can change as a horse matures simply because the horse will hopefully get more expression in his movement.

“It can be that the rhythm, especially in walk, can be better as the horse gets older because a rider can better control his tempo and he has learnt to accept the contact with the bit. The footfalls stay the same but the horse gets more expression (cadence) within the rhythm.”

MEDICAL TIPS

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

By Chris Phillips, BVetMed, CertAVP, MRCVS

ALTHOUGH NOT PERMITTED IN BREEDING THOROUGHBREDS, ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION (AI) HAS IN RECENT YEARS BECOME A VERY POPULAR AND ROUTINE PROCEDURE FOR BREEDING SPORTS AND HEAVY HORSES. HEALTH AND SAFETY BENEFITS ARE WELL RECOGNISED AND CONCEPTION RATES WITH FRESH OR CHILLED SEMEN CAN OFTEN EQUAL OR EXCEED EXPECTATIONS FROM NATURAL SERVICE.



The process involves monitoring the oestrus cycle of the mare to be bred and inseminating her close to ovulation with either freshly collected semen, fresh chilled semen or frozen semen. Successful AI depends on a detailed understanding of the mare's oestrus cycle, a comprehensive understanding of the mare's breeding history and in some cases the use of advanced reproductive techniques.

Before launching into breeding from a mare, new breeders should consider the reasons for breeding from their favourite animal and how they are going to manage the pregnancy, birth and rearing of the foal. It is well worth seeking advice

from experienced breeders, breed societies and veterinary surgeons. Breeding can be a costly endeavour. It's worth setting a budget based on three oestrus cycles when committing oneself to such a venture.

INITIAL ASSESSMENT:

Before breeding your mare, a full reproductive examination should be carried out by your veterinary surgeon to assess her suitability for breeding and to highlight any potential problems. A full reproductive history of the mare is very useful, as this will enable prompt initiation of treatment prior to or after insemination if required.

If insemination is to be performed at an AI centre, often clitoral swabs for contagious venereal disease will be required alongside blood samples for infectious disease prior to entering the centre. This is a routine requirement for all major insemination centres across the country.

An initial reproductive examination will allow assessment of the stage of your mare's oestrus cycle and will determine timing of repeated examinations prior to insemination. Your veterinary surgeon may take an endometrial swab and smear from your mare at this stage to determine whether there is a requirement for

pre or post breeding intrauterine treatment such as antibiotics. Follicular activity is followed closely alongside other parameters and when the follicle has reached a suitable size for breeding, hormones will be given to induce ovulation.

FRESH, CHILLED OR FROZEN SEMEN?

Semen may be available either fresh, chilled or frozen and management of the mare and timing of insemination will be determined by which semen is chosen. For fresh or chilled semen, conception rates are highest when insemination is performed within 24 hours preceding ovulation. Frozen-thawed semen has a relatively short life span and therefore requires that mares be inseminated immediately before (within 6 hours) or after (within 4 hours) ovulation. Subsequent management of mares for insemination with frozen-thawed semen is more intensive and mares require multiple ultrasound examinations to assess the correct time for insemination. Per (oestrus) cycle conception rates for mares using frozen-thawed semen are often lower and therefore ideally this should be reserved for mares with the best reproductive histories. Insemination with chilled semen requires good communication with the stallion stud so that semen is delivered on time. Beware of bank holidays and weekends when using commercial courier services!

SEMEN COLLECTION AND PROCESSING:

Semen is collected from the stallion by the use of a temperature controlled artificial vagina. The collection is performed with the use of either a 'phantom' or 'live' mare. If a live mare is used, she will stimulate the stallion, who will then be allowed to mount her. Once the stallion has mounted, the stallion's penis is inserted into the artificial vagina which has been warmed to an internal temperature of approximately 44 degrees Celsius. The stallion then ejaculates into the artificial vagina and the semen is taken to the laboratory for processing. Many stallions can be trained to mount a phantom mare without requiring prior stimulation by

a live mare. Once in the laboratory, the gel fraction is removed from the sperm-rich portion of the ejaculate. The sperm is examined under a microscope for motility (movement), as well as for any obvious abnormalities. The concentration of sperm cells is then determined. A warmed extender or substitute carrier is then added to the semen sample to maintain its viability. The extended sample is then either divided into doses and distributed for insemination, or is further processed if it is to be frozen. It is very important to prevent large temperature changes of the collected semen. Temperatures that are either too hot or too cold will

affect the viability of the sperm and may even kill it, resulting in the loss of its fertility. Overexposure to direct light will also damage sperm cells.

INSEMINATION:

When your mare is ready for insemination, her perineum and vulva should be thoroughly cleaned and the semen should be prepared. Using a sterile glove, the semen is inseminated through the vagina into the uterus via a uterine catheter. Semen may be deposited into the uterine body or into the horn of the uterus on the side where the ovulation will occur by deep intrauterine insemination.



Frozen-thawed semen must be inseminated immediately before (within 6 hours) or after (within 4 hours) of ovulation



Semen is collected from the stallion in an artificial vagina

Occasionally advanced techniques such as low dose insemination or endoscopic guided insemination are used. This is mainly performed in either problematic mares or mares where only a small volume of semen is available.

FOLLOWING INSEMINATION:

Following insemination, your mare will be checked for ovulation and for post-breeding inflammation in her uterus. Such inflammatory responses are more likely when frozen semen is used. Treatment may be required following insemination, especially in older or problematic horses. Providing all is well, your mare will be scanned at 16 days following ovulation and if pregnant, it is advised that scans be performed at 28 and 45 days to make sure the pregnancy is developing normally and to avoid missing the presence of twins. An older or problematic mare may require treatment to maintain her pregnancy. Supplementing the mare's diet with daily doses of artificial progesterone (Regumate) is thought to have a supportive effect on the pregnancy in some cases.

PROBLEMATIC MARES:

Maiden mares, older mares or mares with predisposing reproductive problems may find it very difficult either to conceive or maintain their pregnancy. Advanced techniques may be required in these cases prior to, during and following insemination. These might include repeated uterine treatments with sterile saline fluid and antibiotic solutions accompanied by stitching of the vulva to prevent infections entering the reproductive tract. These cases can often be hugely time consuming and costly, however, if successful, they are usually the most rewarding to get in foal.

CODE OF PRACTICE:

The British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) provides a list of equine practices that comply with the 'BEVA Guide to the Use of Artificial Insemination in Horse Breeding' and their facilities permit the correct handling and insemination of equine



Chris Phillips performing a deep horn insemination in a mare at Rosssdales Equine Hospital

semen. In order to prevent the national and international spread of venereal diseases by artificial insemination and obtain optimal conception results for their mares, breeders are strongly urged to use the services of practices that comply with the BEVA AI Scheme.

This article was provided for HORSE TIMES by Rosssdales.

About Rosssdales: This article was first published on Rosssdales in August 2013. Rosssdales has been approved by BEVA to provide AI services and our veterinary surgeons have performed many successful inseminations, ranging from straightforward mares to more complex cases. We offer a comprehensive AI service to our clients and referring veterinary practices. Our Defra-approved semen laboratory uses the latest equipment and techniques for freezing, storage and shipment of semen to all major markets around the world. For more information, visit www.rossdales.com, or to speak to one of our reproduction experts, contact the practice on + 44 (0)1638 663150.

About the Author: Chris graduated from the Royal Veterinary College

in 2005. He then spent a year in first opinion practice in Gloucestershire before undertaking an 18-month internship at Rosssdales. This was followed by a stud internship under the supervision of Rosssdales' former Senior Partner, Professor Sidney Ricketts. He subsequently completed a southern hemisphere stud season at Windsor Park Stud in New Zealand. Chris is currently a reproductive and ambulatory veterinary surgeon at Rosssdales and spends much of his time undertaking artificial inseminations (AI) with fresh, chilled and frozen semen at a large local AI stud. He is additionally involved in embryo transfer procedures at Rosssdales Equine Hospital and, together with colleagues who specialise in reproductive techniques, he has developed the practice's semen freezing service and the Defra-approved dedicated semen freezing laboratory. In 2011, Chris was awarded the prestigious Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice, focusing on equine soft tissue surgery, by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS). He is particularly interested in stallion reproduction, especially sub-fertility examinations, and is helping to further develop this area of the practice.

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TRAINING TIPS

THE HORSE WORLD OF NOSEBANDS

Compiled by Khaled Assem



Photo by Cymon Taylor

Crank noseband or Swedish Cavesson

A NOSEBAND MAY HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE FIRST TOOLS USED BY HUMANS TO DOMESTICATE AND RIDE HORSES WHILE THE BIT WAS DEVELOPED AT A LATER STAGE.

The noseband was originally made of leather or rope. After the invention of the bit, the noseband was, in some cultures, demoted to a halter worn beneath the bridle that allowed the rider to remove the bit from the horse's mouth after work and leave a restraining halter on underneath, or to tie the horse by this halter, instead of by the bit, which could result in damage to the horse's mouth if it panicked. However, its ability to hold a horse's mouth shut over the bit was also recognised, as was its usefulness for attaching equipment such as a martingale, and so in some traditions it was sometimes left as a working part of a bridle. Still other cultures, for instance in Ancient Persia, nosebands were developed as a tool for training young horses, called a hakma, and this training noseband evolved into modern equipment such as today's bosal-style hackamore and longeing cavesson.

USES OF NOSEBANDS:

Today the noseband has several uses. First, to keep the horse's mouth closed or at least to prevent a horse from evading the bit by opening the mouth too far. It can sometimes prevent the horse from putting its tongue over the bit and avoiding pressure in that manner

Second, the noseband is also used to help stop a horse from pulling. A stronger noseband can many times be used instead of a stronger bit, which makes it a valuable option for riders that want more control, but do not want to back their horse off, that is, to make the horse afraid to go forward, especially when jumping, which is often an undesirable consequence when the horse is placed in a strong or harsh bit.

Third, it can be an attachment for other equipment, such as a standing martingale. It is also valuable for

young horses just learning to go "on the bit", as it supports the jaw and helps the horse to relax its masseter, and flex softly at the poll.

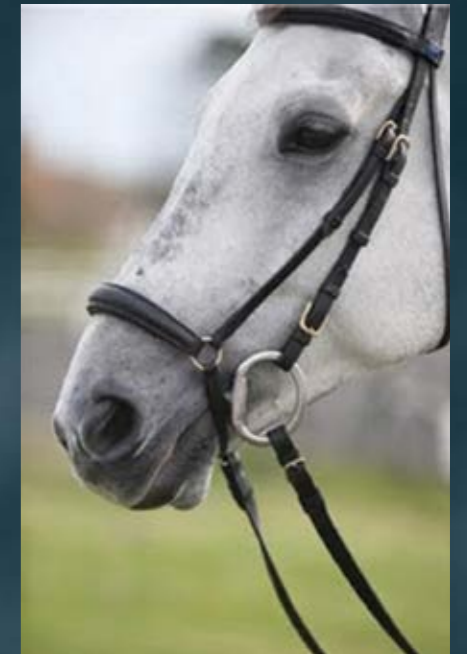
There is a correlation between the sensitivity of a noseband and the amount of tension needed in the reins to obtain a response from the horse. In a 2011 study of horses being ridden in English riding equipment with the noseband in one of three adjacent adjustments, greater rein tension was needed to get a response from the horses when they had the looser adjustment. However, the study did not go on to examine the effects of no noseband at all or a very tight adjustment. Thus, nosebands may add some pressure to the nose when the reins are applied, depending on adjustment, style and the degree to which the horse resists the bit. With a soft leather noseband on a well-trained horse, the effect is minimal.

A bridle does not necessarily need a noseband, and many bridles, such as those used in Western riding, flat racing, or endurance riding, do not have one. Some horses shown in-hand do not use a noseband in order to better show off the animal's head. Many old paintings also depict a hunting horse without a noseband, since it was not always deemed useful by certain riders.

However, even in disciplines such as western riding, where it is considered a sign of a polished horse to not require a noseband or cavesson, one is often used on horses in training as a precaution to help prevent the horse from learning bad habits such as opening the mouth and evading the bit.

DROP NOSEBANDS:

A drop noseband hangs lower on the horse's face, hanging down below the level of the bit rings, and helps



Drop noseband

prevent the horse from opening its mouth and evading the bit.

Invented by the Spanish Riding School, this noseband encircles the nose around the chin groove, as opposed to just below the cheekbone, with the strap on the nasal bone, and never below it. It reminds the horse to keep its mouth closed and prevents the horse from crossing the jaw. Due to its position on the lower part of the face, it should not be used with a standing martingale. A drop noseband is also not suitable for galloping work, as it tends to restrict the nostrils if it is fitted incorrectly. Although the drop used to be very popular in dressage, it is very rarely seen today, partly because many riders dislike the look it gives the horse's head. However, many horses prefer the drop noseband to the flash, and it is a very useful piece of equipment.

FLASH NOSEBANDS:

A flash noseband is a small strap attached to the top of the cavesson that buckles underneath the horse's chin, below the bit rings to keep the horse's mouth shut so it can't evade the bit. The upper cavesson is adjusted somewhat tighter than a plain cavesson to prevent it from being pulled toward the end of the

muzzle by the lower flash strap. The lower flash strap runs below the bit and under the chin groove. It is buckled so the remainder of the strap points downwards.

FIGURE EIGHT NOSEBANDS:

The cheek rings of a figure eight noseband sit high up on the horse's cheeks, and the straps cross over the horse's nose and buckle under the horse's chin like a flash noseband. It helps keep the horse's mouth shut, but may be more comfortable for the horse, as it does not impair the expansion of the horse's nostrils. Horses that must jump or gallop hard may be better off in a figure eight than a flash noseband. This type of noseband is often seen on race horses. This may also be called a grackle noseband. Also called a crossed, Grackle or Mexican noseband, this noseband crosses from the top of the cheekbone on one side, over the nose to the chin groove on the other side, under the horse's chin, and back up to the opposite cheekbone. It is used to remind the horse to keep its mouth closed and prevents him from crossing his jaw, and its design provides more expansion of the nostrils, which is preferable for horses performing work involving galloping (eventing, polo, racing), and has always been popular in show jumping. Many people believe that this type of noseband is more comfortable than a flash.

LEVER OR COMBINATION NOSEBAND:

This noseband has a half-moon piece of metal that goes on each side of the horse's face. On the "top" end of the curve (near the horse's cheek bone), a piece of leather is attached that runs under the jaw and attaches to the other side of the face. At the peak of the curve is a piece of leather that runs over the top of nose in a position slightly lower from where a regular cavesson would cross. At the "bottom" of the curve, a third piece of leather goes under the chin groove of the horse. This noseband is similar in design to the figure-eight, and works similarly by preventing the horse from crossing his jaws (which is especially helped by the metal on either side of the face). Unlike the figure-eight, it does not stabilize the bit and it tends



Flash noseband



Figure 8 noseband



Combination noseband



Kineton noseband

to push the cheeks in against the horse's molars which can be painful.

KINETON OR PUCKLE:

Named for the English town of Kineton, and originating in horse racing for animals uncontrollable at high speeds, this noseband often cited as being rather severe. It transfers bit pressure from the rider's hand to the nose. The Kineton has metal half-rings that pass under the bit, and a leather strap that sits below the bit and over the nose (which it does not encircle) about where a drop noseband would cross. There is no strap to keep the horse's mouth closed. This noseband is only used with a snaffle bit and without a martingale. It is most commonly seen in eventing on the cross-country phase, and in show. This noseband allows the rider to ride lightly with a mild bit and still stop a strong horse.

CRANK NOSEBAND OR SWEDISH CAVESSON:

Used most often on dressage horses

at levels where a double bridle is worn, this noseband is similar to the plain cavesson except it has a leveraged buckle design that may be adjusted very tight, so as to keep the horse's mouth closed. Double bridles cannot use flash or drop cavessons, so the crank is usually seen on upper level dressage horses who will not keep the mouth shut. It is also used occasionally on show hunters and hunt seat equitation horses. If adjusted so the horse can't open its jaw at all when the crank is tight, the horse also cannot relax its jaw. Additionally, it can push the cheeks against the horse's teeth when over tightened, which is painful.

About the author:

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



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PHOTOGRAPHER

KHALED FADDA

"I STARTED MY AMATEUR PATH IN PHOTOGRAPHY IN 1996 YET I DECIDED TO TAKE THIS ROAD PROFESSIONALLY IN 2003 AS I REALISED THAT THERE WAS A LOT OF DEMAND ON MY WORK.

"I always consider the following while working with my subject; I am working with a simple human whom I need to talk to, to like and to see more depth within, and that's what I try to portray in my pictures. Every picture is a reflection of what I see through the character of my subject. I enjoy each picture I shoot and I'm always keen to take pictures that would last through time.

"As for horses, I dealt with the horse not as a subject but as a human being who has a particular mood and aura and this is what I tried to portray in my work at the Citadel. The riders were very charismatic in relation to the location that inspired age, beauty and prevalence through time.

"I will continue to follow my path and my passion and will simply let my instinct guide me through." 

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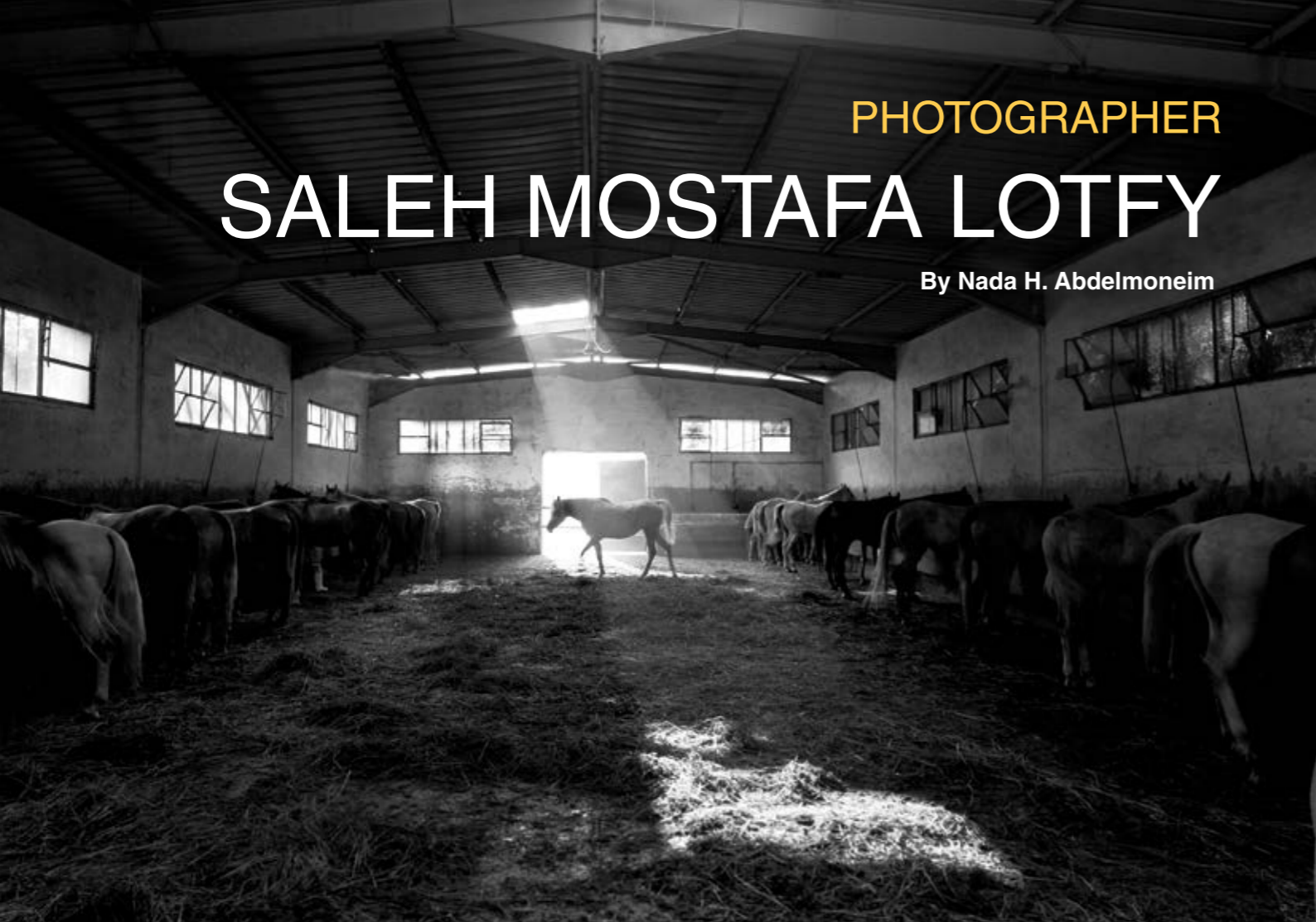
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PHOTOGRAPHER SALEH MOSTAFA LOTFY

By Nada H. Abdelmoneim



WE FIRST MET SALEH MOSTAFA LOTFY IN 2011 AFTER BEING RECOMMENDED HIS SERVICES BY A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER AND THE FIRST WORDS THAT WERE USED TO DESCRIBE HIM WERE "HUMBLE, RESERVED AND HAD A GROWING INTEREST IN PHOTOGRAPHING HORSES". YET LOTFY WAS A MAN WHO HAD GREAT TALENTS. HIS PORTFOLIO FEATURED HIGHLY ARTISTIC AND CONCEPTUAL PHOTOS AND WAS SOMEONE WITH AN EDGE TO CREATIVELY PHOTOGRAPH EVERYDAY LIFE.

Lotfy picked up his first Digital single-lens reflex camera seven years ago after graduating with a degree in Computer and Information Sciences. A self-taught photographer with books and practice as his mentors, he has gained much experience after working alongside renowned Egyptian photographers and directors and is currently a partner in XtremePhotography, a full-fledged photography agency based in Cairo and founded in the mid 90's.

After developing a fascination for the spirit of Arabian horses, Lotfy was introduced to Dr. Nasr Marei, an internationally acclaimed Arabian horse breeder and judge, as well as a celebrated and published photographer. Dr. Marei stated

that he saw a promising and gifted photographer in the making after meeting Lotfy, "I detected his artistic potential with an eye that sees details and composition. His experience in horse photography was almost non-existent then. I accepted the task of helping him build-up his skills as I usually do if I find that the candidate has talent and is willing to learn."

Lotfy enjoys working indoors and outdoors. His studio shoots are creative and diverse, and his outdoor themes vary between vintage and modern. He has worked with HORSE TIMES on several exclusive photo-shoots for dressage and show jumping athletes and competitions, as well as Arabian horse shows. His photos were featured in many of the magazine's issues as

well as in Desert Heritage Magazine. He grew to understand the Arabian horse better as to fully capture its essence, spirit and beauty, and intends to further pursue photographing the quintessence they bring to their lovers and breeders. 



SALEH MOSTAFA

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saleh@salehmostafa.com
+201006624873



I ride three times a week and my horse is such a warm, friendly and kind-hearted mare.

I'd like to participate in international shows and enter the Olympics in 2024.

My horse is special because he is very sweet and gentle and sits in his stall...

FEROSIA CLUB RIDING PROGRAMME GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS!

By Nada H. Abdelmoniem



my love for them grew more and more over the years.

MALAK

I was five years old I rode on the beach and I really liked it so I wanted to learn how to be a better rider.

A

Girls

I started loving horses and I wanted to train professionally.

my passion for riding started when I was 12 years old.

NABILA

Girls

Passion for Horse

He isn't the kindest of horses, but I love him best each day I go to see him by feeding him and patting him.

AGSHA

Photo-shoot sponsored by KANA Riding Gear
All photos taken by Saleh Mostafa Lotfy at the Ferosia Club

THE FEROSIA (CLASSICAL ARABIC TERM FOR HORSEMANSHIP, ALSO SPELT FURUSIYYA) CLUB IN ZAMALEK, CAIRO (ESTABLISHED IN 1938), HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF EQUESTRIAN SPORT BY PRODUCING YOUNG RIDERS REGULARLY. WHILE THE PROGRAMME IS NOT GEARED TO ONE GENDER OR THE OTHER, BY CHANCE THE CURRENT CROP OF YOUNG RIDERS TRAINING AND RIDING THERE ARE PREDOMINANTLY YOUNG GIRL RIDERS. THEY ARE APPARENT NOT JUST IN THEIR QUANTITY, BUT THEIR QUALITY. HT TOOK SOME TIME TO SPEAK TO THEM AND HERE IS WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY ABOUT THEIR TRAINING, THEIR PASSION FOR HORSES AND THE SPORT.

Training
a better rider.

horses and I wanted to

My horse is special because she's loyal and she fulfills my soul
Farida

I ride three times a week and my horse is such a warm, friendly and kind-hearted mare.

I'd like to participate in international shows and enter the Olympics in 2024.

My horse is special because he is very sweet and gentle.



Aisha & Hana!

AISHA GOHAR

D.O.B: January 3, 1999

SCHOOL: Canadian International School

HORSE: Eldorado

Aisha

"My passion for riding started when I used to watch my best friend training for three years. I used to always go with her just to watch her and I really enjoyed it. I knew that being on a horse was something I wanted to do. I always enjoyed watching riders on television and imagined myself doing the same. I loved the idea of horses and bonding with a horse. I train three times a week and sometimes when I am free during the weekend. I walk my horse around the track and I think he is special in his own way. We have a weird connection together. He isn't the kindest of horses, but I try my best each day to get closer to him by feeding him treats and patting him. After all, the bond between you and your horse is one of the most important things in riding. My dreams for the future is to become the best rider that I can be and I hope to pursue a career in professional riding and amaze people in a way that previous champions and my own heroes haven't done before. Other than that I take riding day by day, I don't really like to think about the future a lot."

HANA EBEID

D.O.B: February 6, 2001

SCHOOL: Ecole Oasis Internationale

HORSE: Hope

Hana

My passion for riding started when I was 12 years old.

NABYLA

"I've always liked horses. One time, my parents took me to the club and I saw horses around me. I really wanted to ride one of them, so my parents encouraged me to get on the horse's back...and it all started from there. I train three times per week and my horse is special because he is always full of energy. No matter how hard we train, he'll always have some energy left. After riding, I feed my Hope some carrots or apples. Also, sometimes on Saturdays, I go to the club and take him out for a walk. As a rider, I look up to the famous Egyptian rider Nael Nassar who has won many international competitions and for the future, I'd like to participate in international shows and enter the Olympics in 2024."

I want the kindest of horses and I wanted to get closer to him by feeding him treats and patting him.

AISHA

My horse is special because she's loyal and she fulfills my soul.
Farida

I ride three times a week and my horse is such a warm, friendly and kind-hearted mare.

I'd like to participate in international shows and enter the Olympics in 2024.

My horse is special because he is very sweet



MALAK EL-SHERBINY

D.O.B: January 3, 1996
SCHOOL: El Alsson School
HORSE: Candy

Malak
My passion for riding

"My passion for riding started when I was very young as I used to make my parents take me to feed and play with horses at the club. Eventually, I started riding and have loved it since. I train three times a week and my horse is special because he is very sweet and gentle whilst in his stall. I bond with Candy by talking to him and rewarding him when he has done something good. My dreams for the future are to continue riding throughout university and to compete in higher classes."

"My dreams for the future are to continue riding throughout university"

a better rider.

horses and I wanted to

FARIDA EL-SHERBINY

D.O.B: April 10, 1998
SCHOOL: El Alsson School
HORSE: Allegra

Farida
My passion for riding started when I was 12 years old.

"When we were very young, my parents used to take my sister and I for rides at the Gezira Club. There was something about being on a horse's back, and around horses in general, which was so welcoming. I ride three times a week and my horse is such a warm, friendly and kind-hearted mare. Even though she still has a lot to learn, she's such a fast learner who's willing to please. I try to spend as much time as I can with her by just sitting with her in her stall, bathing her, or simply giving her a forehead massage which she loves. I also make sure I have treats for her every single time to reward her for her effort. No matter how small a thing I do with/ for her, it seems to pay off in her progress. My future dream is that in years from now I will still be riding Allegra, but competing with her in classes much higher and more challenging than the ones we ride in now."

MARJOLA
He is the kindest of horses, but I best each day to get closer to him by feeding him treats and patting him.

My horse is special because she's loyal and she fulfills my soul
Farida

AGSHA

I ride three times a week and my horse is such a friendly and kind-hearted mare.

I'd like to participate in international shows and enter the Olympics in 2024.

My horse is special because he is very sweet



NABILA EL-SHAWARBY

D.O.B: March 14, 1997
SCHOOL: British International School
HORSES: Too Much, Winning Mood

Nabila

"My passion for riding started when I was 12 years old. It was when I rode my mother's mare Ram Bam for the first time; I loved it so much I wanted to ride her one day. I usually ride alone three times a week and I train on the weekends with Yasser Assar. My two special horses differ from each other; Too Much is the first horse I competed with and I've achieved things I never thought I could such as the Ladies 6-bar which went up to 150 cm, and Winning Mood teaches me to be patient and makes me a stronger rider. I spend a lot of time with them and I always give them treats and play with them. The more we experience together the closer we become; I've realised that especially with Too Much. Ben Maher is my favourite rider because he's very talented and I like his riding style. My dreams for the future are all about continuing to ride and making a name for myself in this sport."

AYA AMR

D.O.B: August 18, 1994
UNIVERSITY: Helwan University, Faculty of Arts, English Department
HORSES: Koheba, Little William, Candy

Aya

"I was terrified of horses as a little girl, but my mum loved them and she used to take me riding. After a while I started loving horses and I wanted to train professionally. I train three times per week and all the horses that I ride are very special. Little William is very comfortable and nice to ride without a saddle because he has a very nice arched-in back, Koheba doesn't jump high classes but he is more stable in his pace, but on the other hand Candy jumps bigger although his jumps aren't comfortable. To bond with the horses I talk to them, reward them when they've done well, I try to connect with them while I'm riding by using positive reinforcement and patting them when they do what I want. I try not to give them too many orders so they don't get confused and respond positively. In the box I give them carrots and sugar. As a rider I look up to my coach Khaled Assem because he is a great rider and a great coach. He taught me that I should never underestimate myself and my potential. He believes in me and encourages me and he taught me that one shouldn't give up on his dreams no matter how hard they are. My dreams for the near future are to gain more experience in riding, develop my skills especially my physical abilities, and start competing in the F-Class next season."

My passion for riding started when I was 12 years old.

MARIPA

but I... him treats and patting him.

AGSHA

...better rider.

...horses and I wanted to

My horse is special because she's loyal and she fulfills my soul
Farida

I ride three times a week and my horse is such a gentle and kind-hearted mare.



I'd like to participate in international shows and enter the Olympics in 2024.



My horse is special because he is very sweet



MALAK ASSEM

D.O.B: July 17, 1999
SCHOOL: El Alsson School
HORSE: Cairo

My love for horses grew more and more over the years
Malak

"My passion for riding began when I was a little girl, riding in front of my dad in the saddle. I suppose because of all the time I spent around horses, my love for them grew more and more over the years. I train three times a week throughout our school year, although during our school holidays, we ride five to six times a week. Cairo is many things: helpful, caring and strong, but most importantly he is special. And the reason for that is I've been through a lot with my old horses, but Cairo specifically brought out the best in me. He helped me achieve my dreams of winning a trophy for the first time and he is always there for me and even through tough times we achieve together. For bonding, I mostly spend time with him, massaging him, playing with him, even if I just sit with him in his stable. If it's one thing I learned from my dad, it's that anyone can ride, but a good rider is the one who loves his horse and gains their love back. Even though there are many great international riders around the world, I look up to my father and I do so because he has been with me through every single step of the way, through the tears and laughs; he taught me how to be determined and how to always put 100% effort in riding, but most importantly to never ever give up and make the best of what I have. My dreams for the future are to become an international rider and enter the World Equestrian Games and hopefully become an Olympian. It sounds farfetched but having goals and dreams are key. Other than that I mostly want to become a role model to young riders, and prove to them that determination and positivity can make them move up in life."

FARIDA SABA

D.O.B: January 10, 2002
SCHOOL: British International School
HORSE: Mandy

Farida
My passion for riding started when I was 12 years old.

"My love for horses started when I was three years old and after feeding the horses at the Gezira Club. When I was six years old, I entered the riding school and I was qualified and I started to take riding more seriously. When I was a bit older, I took it to the next level and Eric started to train me at the Ferosia and Maadi Clubs. Eng. Samir Abdelfatah also trained me by the time I was 10. I travelled and rode during two summers in Holland, and after that I rode in Belgium. It was a huge event for me and it was the first time I entered an international competition. Currently, I ride six times a week. Mandy my horse is special because she's loyal and she fulfils my soul. She's beautiful; she gives me support when I need it. She's always on my side no matter what and I do really adore her. She's unique and I wouldn't ask for a better friend than her. One of her special features is that she's sensitive and she understands when I am and she brings me back to life when I'm down. To bond with her, I pat her when she does something good, I speak to her, I give her support, I feed her carrots, sometimes apples and of course I give her sugar. I give her advice when I need to interact with her. My favourite rider is Karim El Zoghby and my dreams include firstly, becoming a vet as well as a professional rider, and then competing at the Olympia Horse Show."

better rider.

horses and I wanted to

My horse is special because she's loyal and she fulfils my soul
Farida

AGSHA
him treats and patting him.

Ride three times a week and my horse is such

I'd like to participate in international shows and

My horse is special because she's loyal and she purrs my soul



The only man in the photo, Karim Safwat, Assistant Coach!



Aya & Farida Saba!

NADA HANI

D.O.B: January 4, 2001
SCHOOL: El Alsson School
HORSE: No Limit

Nada *No Limit* *Horse*
Girls

"When I was five years old I rode a horse on the beach and I really enjoyed it so I wanted to learn how to become a better rider. I train three times a week on school days, and every day during holidays. The season before I had No Limit I was having a hard time with my old horse because we stopped connecting and weren't able to work together, I couldn't ride him anymore and thought I would never find a suitable horse for me but then I found No Limit and realised I was wrong. I try my best to bond with her and I massage her and we spend time together. I look up to Khaled Assem as a rider because he taught me never to give up no matter what, and my future dreams are to become an international professional rider." 🏆



a better rider.

horses and I wanted to

My horse is special because she's loyal and she purrs my soul
Farida

I ride three times a week and my horse is such



I'd like to participate in the Olympics in



Malak Asseri!



Girls girls girls!



Nabila!



Hana, Aisha & Farida!



The Sherbiny sisters!



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...better rider. *...horses and I wanted to* *My h* *Faria*

JUNIOR PROFILES

LARA TECKLENBORG

DATE OF BIRTH: FEBRUARY 2, 2000

RIDING SCHOOL: HARSEWINKEL (APPROX. 10 KM FROM BEELEN)



EQUESTRIAN SPORT IS NO LONGER A MALE-DOMINATED SPORT AS YOUNG AND ASPIRING GIRLS ARE EMERGING ON THE SCENE. WE ALSO CATCHES UP WITH ANOTHER YOUNG GIRL RIDER FROM GERMANY WHO TELLS US ABOUT HER PASSION FOR HORSES AND RIDING PROGRAMME.

I started riding in 2003, ever since I was three years old. I train around four times a week, usually after school and I ride around 13 horses, sometimes ponies and sometimes big ones. Each of them has its own nature and reacts differently to my aids. Some of them were really difficult to ride, thus I learnt to assert myself and to never give up. The better I know a horse the more confidence we both have. For example, my pony Nora, which I have had for four years, could sometimes be very 'bull-headed', but this just makes things exciting and never boring! My coach is a 40 year old woman who trains very well and I can implement her instructions quickly. I often do notice further progress! For the future, I would like to professionally compete. My favourite rider is dressage champion Helen Langehanenberg; she is beautiful and I love dressage.

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