

ALI AL RUMAIHI QUEST FOR SUCCESS

By Khaled Assem

IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE WE LAST SAT DOWN WITH QATAR'S ALI AL RUMAIHI FOR OUR 'PERISCOPE' INTERVIEW IN THE SUMMER OF 2011. WE THOUGHT THAT IT WAS TIME THAT WE CAUGHT UP ON HIS NEWS AND VIEWS. DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS, AL RUMAIHI HAS EXTENDED HIS EXPERIENCE, TALENT AND HORSEMANSHIP AS PART OF THE QATARI'S TEAM EFFORT TO QUALIFY FOR THE 2016 OLYMPICS. THAT TAKES MANAGEMENT AND EFFORT. LET'S FOLLOW UP WITH THE QATARI'S QUEST FOR SUCCESS.



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Ali & Ravena

So, Ali, tell us what you have been up to in the arena these past two years? Any new horses? Trainers? Strategies? Significant professional development events?

We have started a new experience training with Jan Tops in Holland and we are beginning to see great results in the highest level of competition. I had a new mare, Victoria, but now she is with the rider Bassem Saif.

Who were the coaches that were most influential in your career?

I have had many good coaches in



Ali & his daughter Nora



my riding career and from each of them I learnt different things. Each coach has a different style of riding. Some coaches were with us for longer than others but in the end, I benefitted from them all. The benefits were not only to do with my riding skills, but with being a horseman and learning about the sport.

The landmarks that were turning points whether they were horses, or shows or decisions?

When it comes to horses I have been fortunate to ride many good ones. However it was my bay stallion Nagano who gave me my first gold medal at the Asian Games in 2006.

The Asian Games were the starting point in terms of the big league. Not only for me, but for the whole Qatar equestrian team. It was after this win that we began to seriously contemplate competing at the highest level.

What is your daily routine with your horses regarding training?

I am currently based at Jan Tops' stable in Holland. We do whatever we can to keep the horses in good shape physically and mentally. We try to ensure that they are taken out of the boxes more than twice a day. In the morning the horses are flat worked or jumped, and then in the afternoon they do more flat work or we take them on a hack. They must

be kept extremely fit to keep up with the demanding schedule of 5* shows.

Who has influenced you the most in your riding?

My father was not only a horse owner and breeder, he was also the manager of the Qatar Racing and Equestrian club and the president of the Arab Equestrian Federation. His life was all about horses, so obviously this rubbed off on my brothers and me. I loved horses from a young age and enjoyed riding, but it was his choice to put me in show jumping. That was how it all started.

What is the impact of your riding schedule on your family?

It is difficult as I have to spend so much time away from them. We compete all year round in many different countries so we are a constantly traveling.

What are your plans and goals for the future?

I try not to think too far ahead, I am all about living in the moment. However, we do have a busy schedule with the Global Champions Tour which we will be competing in till the Final which will be held in Doha in November. I have qualified for the World Equestrian Games in Normandy, France 2014. We will also be trying to qualify for the 2016 Olympics Games. 