

CHI AL SHAQAB 2016

# AN EXTRAORDINARY EVENT IN AN EXTRAORDINARY SETTING

By Aya Amr

© CHI AL SHAQAB



The main arena at CHI AL SHAQAB.





The pony centre at Al Shaqab



Horse walker at Al Shaqab



Young horses at Al Shaqab

### QATAR

Qatar and its capital, Doha, have a great deal to offer including its weather, geographical location and safe and peaceful society with a rich wealth of Arabic culture and Islamic traditions.

When combined with the unique collection of some of the world's finest sports venues, these national assets provide a contemporary opportunity designed to attract international sport federations, national sport associations, and global sport event companies.

The international sport opportunities that are created for Qatar and its population are almost too numerous to mention. With the many events that Qatar has hosted, its people have benefited from an influx of

leading sport and business professionals to help shape the aspirations of the nation and also to deliver unprecedented sporting results. This year Qatar was the host of the CHI AL SHAQAB competition for the fourth year running.

### ABOUT AL SHAQAB

Since its foundation in 1992, Al Shaqab has had a mission to build on Qatar's rich Arabian horse heritage and a vision of turning the country into a leading global centre for equine professionals. Global leadership has not only meant preserving, improving and promoting the Arabian horse breed, but also engaging the community in this unique, historic and cultural sport.

Al Shaqab was born when HH Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, located the Arabian breeding farm at the landmark battle site of Al Shaqab where his ancestor, Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed Al Thani, led the Qataris against the Ottomans in 1893 at Al Rayyan in a pivotal battle towards independence. The Al Shaqab facility and its top three studs were named in his honour.

Those three stallions, namely Gazal Al Shaqab, Al Adeed Al Shaqab and Marwan Al Shaqab, were raised as World Champions, and alongside their offspring. They enhance the pedigree of Arabian horses not only in Qatar, but around the world. In 2004, Al Shaqab became a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development to continue its mission to promote the

breeding and showing of Arabian horses, and to provide educational and competitive opportunities in the equestrian arts.

Today, Al Shaqab's remarkable facilities, which are distinctively designed in the shape of a horseshoe, cover 98,000 square metres. With a state-of-the-art Main Arena comprising both an indoor and outdoor venue capable of holding over 5,000 spectators, Al Shaqab is part of Qatar's growing reputation on the world stage that showcases its ability to host major international sports events at the highest level.

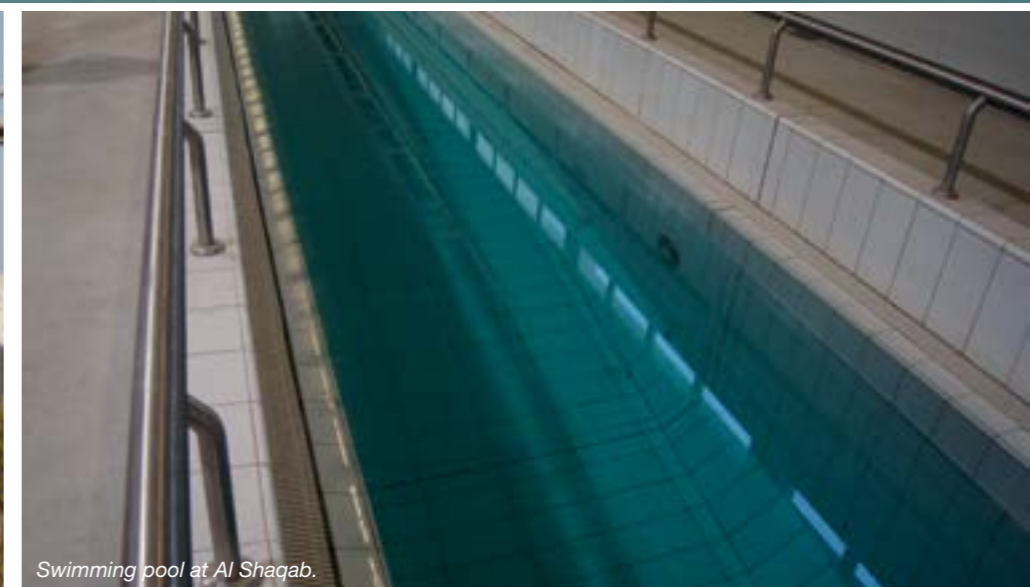
The Equestrian Centre also encompasses a number of other facilities, including the Breeding and Show Centre, the Emiri Stables, the Endurance Stables, an Equine Education Centre and an Equine Hospital.



Horse Massager at Al Shaqab.



Al Shaqab facility.



Swimming pool at Al Shaqab.



*Bertram Allen.*



*Scott Brash*



*Karim El Zoghby*



*Hani Bisharat.*



*Abdullah AlSharbatly.*



*Jan Tops.*



*Noora Al Qauod.*



*Fahd El Eid.*



*Pius Schwizer.*



*Sheikh Ali Al Thani.*



*Khalid El Eid.*



*Michelle Grimes.*



*Abdelkebir Ouaddar.*



*Kamal Bahamdan.*



*Bassem Mohammed*



*Ali Al Khorafi*



*Ibrahim Hani Bisharat.*



*Shady Samir.*



Daniel Deusser & First Class van Eeckelghem.



Christian Ahlmann & Codex One.



Nicola Philippaerts & Zilverstar T.

Al Shaqab, which is firmly part of Doha's growing reputation as a modern, cosmopolitan city that still respects and cherishes its heritage, has helped the country's focus on hosting major international sports events of the highest calibre become a reality.

#### SHOW JUMPING

Out of all equestrian disciplines, jumping is one of the best-known. In CHI AL SHAQAB, the Course Designer, Frank Rothenberger, wanted to test the riders' skills and abilities as well as those of the horses. His courses were very technical with various combinations to determine the best combination of horse and rider on that day.

Expectations were very high; everyone was very

excited to know who will clinch the title in Doha when only five riders were able to go through to the jump off of the 1.60m Grand Prix and consequently all were placed to win the total prize money of 500,000 Euros.

It was an all-German podium when Germany's Ludger Beerbaum clinched first place, Germany's Daniel Deusser was in the runner up spot and Germany's Christian Ahlmann was in third place; which left Portugal's Luciana Diniz and Belgium's Nicola Philippaerts in fourth and fifth place.

In the CSI3\* final, with total prize money of 36,000 Euros, the trainee performed on that day better than his trainer when Saudi Arabia's Khaled Abdulrahman Almoby got first place and his trainer Egypt's Saed

Saad got second place. Saudi Arabia was on fire with three placings in the final as third place went to Saudi Arabia's Ramzy Hamad Al Duhami, fourth place to France's Frédéric David and fifth place to Saudi Arabia's Nasser Albagami.

#### DRESSAGE

The competition was very challenging between the top dressage riders with a double win for the Olympic rider from Sweden, Patrik Kittel, in both the Grand Prix and the Grand Prix freestyle to music.

Second place in the Grand Prix went to the World Cup finalist, Germany's Jessica von Bredow-Werndl, Ireland's Judy Reynolds was in third, Sweden's Silver Medallist at the Swedish Championships in 2011,

Rose Mathisen in fourth place and Netherlands' Katja Gevers had to settle for fifth place; with total prize money of 40,000 Euros.

The placings of the Grand Prix freestyle to music differed a little when Ireland's Judy Reynolds got the runner up spot, in third place was Germany's Jessica von Bredow-Werndl, Netherlands' Katja Gevers in fourth place and Sweden's Rose Mathisen in fifth place; with total prize money of 100,000 Euros.

#### PARA-DRESSAGE

With eyes on the total prize money of 4,400 Euros, all the riders wanted to do their best to win; Republic of South Africa's Philippa Johnson-Dwyer was able to clinch first place, Denmark's Susanne Jensby



Luciana Diniz & Fit For Fun 13.



Saed Saad & Triple S.



Ludger Beerbaum & Chiara.



Astrid Neumayer and Rodriguez 4



Elena Sidneva and Romeo-Star

Sunesen got second place, Norway's Ann Cathrin Lübbe was in third, Netherlands' Lotte Krijnsen in fourth and finally Austria's Bernd Brugger in fifth place.

The winner, Philippa Johnson-Dwyer (RSA) had this to say:

*"You can really feel that the nerves have settled on the third day of competition and everyone looks forward to the freestyle competition all week. The pressure is always on when you walk into the arena because the standard of riding is so high here at CHI AL SHAQAB. My horse Louis is an extraordinary horse but I have to work hard to get the most out*

*of him. I chose my choreography before I chose the music but I had a rough idea of the type of rhythm that would complement my test. I'm looking forward to competing in the Paralympics in Rio this year and I'm so happy to have had a successful outing here in Qatar."*

**A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT, Mr. Fahad Saad Al Qahtani:**

Under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Al Thani and Her Excellency Sheikha Al-Mayassa Bint Hamad Al Thani, we are proud to present the fourth annual CHI AL SHAQAB competition.

The 2016 edition of this prestigious equine event, which was inaugurated in 2013, includes four days of Jumping and Dressage to Para-Dressage, family activities and much more. The beauty, elegance and skills displayed by both horses and riders during CHI AL SHAQAB is a delight to behold, and I am honoured to assert that this is an experience you will remember for years to come. I would also like to thank our partners and sponsors for their part in raising the profile of CHI AL SHAQAB. Without your support, this event would not have reached the extraordinary level of distinction for which it is now known.

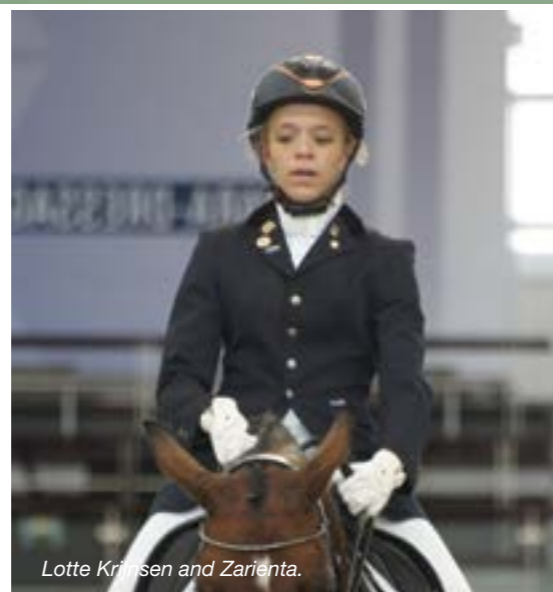
**A NOTE FROM THE MEDIA AND BROADCAST MANAGER, Mr. Fahad Abdulla Al Hajri:**

It is my privilege to welcome you to the fourth annual CHI AL SHAQAB competition here in Doha, Qatar. Since its inception in 2013, CHI AL SHAQAB has received increasing international interest and audience participation, and has been covered in the media in over 80 countries around the world. I would like to thank the media for playing an essential role in showcasing the skills, showmanship and elegance of this competition and making it one of the most watched equestrian events in recent years. I would also like to thank our partners and sponsors for their continuous effort.

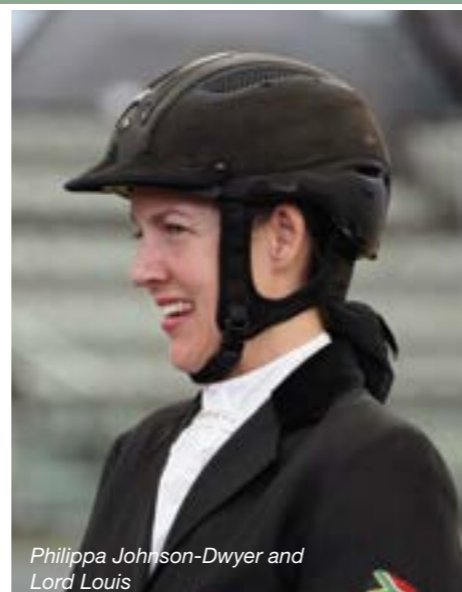
Photos by HORSE TIMES



James Dwyer and Fleurette van de Kreungel



Lotte Krijnsen and Zarienta



Philippa Johnson-Dwyer and Lord Louis



Media and Broadcast Manager, Mr. Fahad Abdulla Al Hajri; President of Al Shaqab, Mr. Fahad Saad Al Qahtani; Germany's Christian Ahlmann; Germany's Daniel Deusser; Germany's Ludger Beerbaum; President of Ground Jury, Stephan Ellenbruch and the Course Designer, Frank Rothenberger.