

IFCC INDIA 2019
SHOWJUMPING AT ITS BEST IN
MAYO COLLEGE

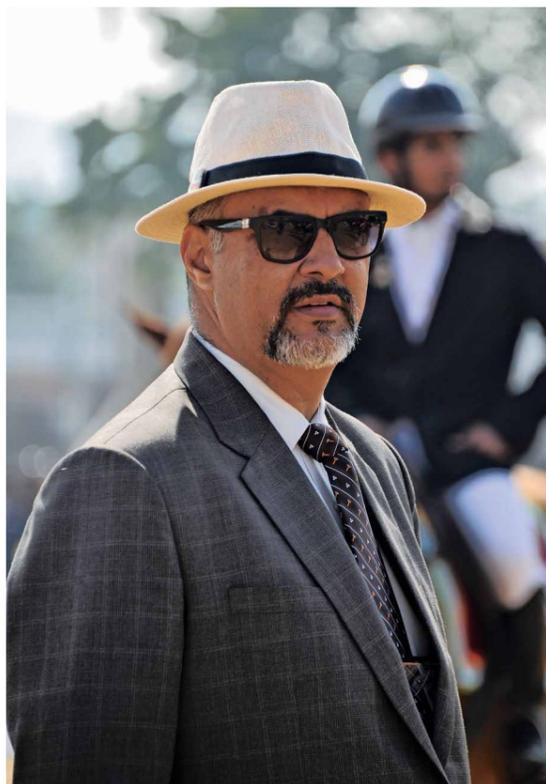
BY LARISSA HILLS



JANUARY 2019 SAW THE INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY CLUB COMPETITION LEAGUE JUMP INTO THE FIRST EVENT OF THE YEAR. FOUR CLUBS COMPRISING 5 TEAMS COMPETED AGAINST EACH OTHER IN THE BREATHTAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS OF THE PRESTIGIOUS MAYO COLLEGE THAT IS LOCATED AT THE FOOTHILLS OF MADAR IN THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF AJMER, RAJASTHAN, INDIA.



Trophies



Col Alankar Bhardwaj (Retd), Bursar, Mayo College



All Participants



Riders at the jump



The Jury



The Indian Contingent



The Egyptian Contingent

Founded in 1875 by the Viceroy of India and the 6th Earl of Mayo, This college was originally built for royalty of princely states with the intention to create an "Eton of India". In October of that year Mayo's first student, H.H. Maharaja Mangal Singh of Alwar, arrived at the school gate on an elephant back accompanied by an entourage of 300 men, horses, camels and tigers.

With the sprawling college campus stretching over 200 acres of lush green gardens, sports fields and facilities, and Indo-Saracenic architecture one cannot help but fall in love with the rich history and culture that Mayo College has to offer.

The host, Col. Alankar Bhardwaj (Retd.), and his team put together a jampacked and fun filled itinerary for their guests of which the main event

was the Show Jumping Competition.

The competition consists of 3 events over a 3-day period and the heights jumped are 0.90m, 1.00m and 1.10m respectively. All 3 events count towards individual results with the Team Event as part of the 1.00m individual event. Riders accumulate scores for each placing and the overall winner is the rider with the highest score. All the courses are designed by world renown course designer Mr. Olaf Petersen and judged by International 3* Judge Mr. Yuri Valev.

The 0.90m competition saw most riders going into the fences with great caution and sometimes a bit of apprehension. Technical difficulty was low and it was a flowing course with easy distances between fences. Out of the 15 riders Mayo College took most of the podium places with Anirudh Deo Singh (Mayo

College A, India) on Laryssa coming first, Chineque Smith (Southern Riding Club, South Africa) on Chetak second, Rochak Sobti (Mayo College A, India) on Poles Apart third, Devvrath Singh Ranawat (Mayo College B, India) on Daishonin fourth and Jai Sud (Mayo College A, India) on Ocean Myth fifth.

On the second competition day (1.00m) tension started to mount – riders and coaches were super focused as all knew that they were competing for the coveted Team Title. Despite the competitive spirit amongst the teams, the camaraderie between all, and especially the riders, was spectacular – everyone cheered when there was a clear round, everyone held their breaths when a pole was knocked and everyone applauded when a rider went through the finish line.

The results for the Individual 1.00m Competition started to level out with Mayo College (India), Derby Club (Russia) and Southern Riding Club (South Africa) taking podium places. First place went to Devvrath Singh Ranawat (Mayo College B, India) on Daishonin, second Jai Sud (Mayo College A, India) on Ocean Myth, third Vasilisa Erastova (Derby Club, Russia) on Lil Windy, fourth Chineque Smith (Southern Riding Club, South Africa) on Chetak and fifth Marco Bianchi (Southern Riding Club, South Africa) on Regal Opportunity.

For the Team Competition there was a tie for first and second places which led to a jump off between Maria Lopota (Derby Club, Russia) on Secret Talent and Chineque Smith (Southern Riding Club, South Africa) on Chetak. The silence was deafening as they raced around the arena. Maria



Russian Team at Art School



Mr Alok Sharma, Director of Sport, Mayo College and Mr Yuri. Dinev Valev, Jury, Bulgaria



Jury With mementos



Lt Gen SH Kulkarni (Retd), Director, Mayo College



Day 2 Winners



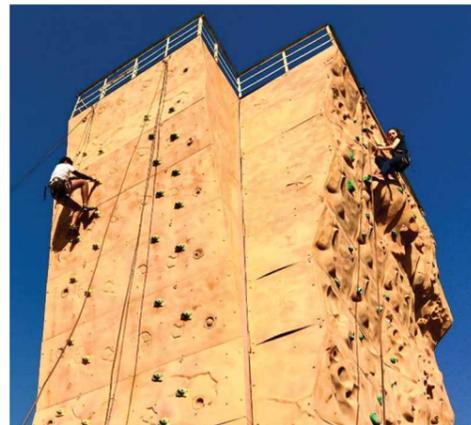
Day 1 Winners



Jai Sud with his Award



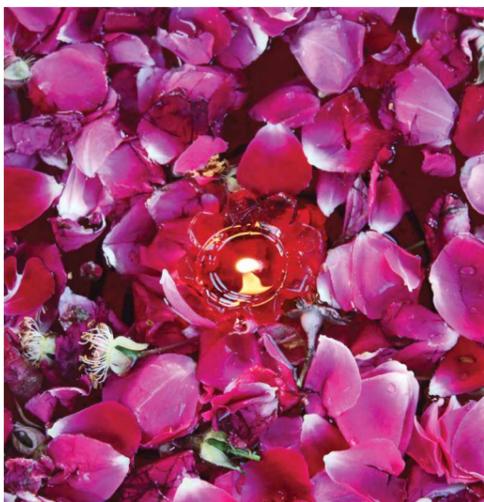
Noran and Rana - The Egyptian team



Wall Climbing



The Participants



44 | Yoga sessions



Yoga sessions

and Secret Talent were just too fast for Chineque and Chetak and Derby Club (Russia) walked away as the winning club of the competition. Southern Riding Club (South Africa) placed second and Mayo College A (India) third.

The third and final day of the competition was the Grand Prix event at 1.10m. By now all riders were confident on their horses and it showed in their performance and skill as they navigated their way around a testing course. Nail biting stuff with riders racing against the clock and trying to jump clear rounds.

Chineque Smith from Southern Riding Club (South Africa) scooped the Grand Prix title with the only clear round jumped in a time of 70.75 seconds (time allowed 79 seconds). Devvrath Singh Ranawat (Mayo College

B, India) on Daishonin placed second, Jai Sud (Mayo College A, India) on Ocean Myth third, Vasilisa Erastova (Derby Club, Russia) on Lil Windy fourth and Harsh Pal Shekhawat (Mayo College B, India) on Sansani fifth.

Chineque was also awarded over-all Champion of the 2019 IFCC India competition.

Apart from the aim of this concept of giving young riders the opportunity to compete Internationally at a friendly level, emphasis is also placed on the interaction of young people from different backgrounds and cultures visiting each other's countries to experience their respective cultures and establishing lasting friendships. Col. Alankar Bhardwaj (Retd.) did just that and more. He exceeded every expectation with his introduction of Incredible India to his guests.



Chat between Mr Gautam Kotwal, old Boy and Bhawani Singh President Old Boys society (OBS)



Ms Larissa Hills, Official, South Africa accepting the Memento from the Director



Mr Merit Fanous, official, Egypt accepting the Memento From The Director

India is known for its temples and dargahs and hence the most memorable cultural sights of this tour.

Nareli Temple is situated on the outskirts of Ajmer on the Aravali mountain range. It is a Jain temple with exquisite architecture, intricate stone carvings and sculptures. There are 24 miniature temples at the top of the hill overlooking the main temple and the view from there is absolutely breath taking.

Next was visiting the Dargah of the Great Sufi Saint Khawaja Gharib Nawaz who is a symbol of love, harmony and truth. A spiritual place where locals flock to in order to make offerings and receive blessings.

Pushkar is an amazing site, from the vibrant vibe in the market to the spiritual ambiance of the Brahma Temple to the sacred Pushkar Lake. A sensory overload that leaves you awestruck.

The Cultural Programme performed by Mayo College students was also a highlight of the tour where traditional Indian dances and music entertained all. A colourful festival of Indian traditional music and dance.

All became very brave and daring at the Xcapade Adventure Park where activities included riding a bicycle on a tight rope, rolling down a hill in a big beach ball, paint ball shooting, zip-lining and quad biking. This made for some good laughs but most of all forging friendships.

Lasting memories were made with yoga at 7am every morning, savouring traditional Indian cuisine and Sophie, the Indian elephant who gave all the opportunity to experience an elephant ride.

In closing, a quote from Keith Bellows, VP - National Geographic Society: *"There are some parts of the world*

that, once visited, get into your heart and won't go. For me, India is such a place."

Not only because of the breath-taking landscapes, beautiful architecture, spiritual sites and sensory overload of colour, taste and smell, but also for the warmth and hospitality in which we were received at Mayo College where old friendships were rekindled and new friends were made, till we meet again.

"It was a great pleasure and privilege to host the International Friendly Club Competition -an International Equestrian event at Mayo College from 24th to 29th January 2019. Hosting delegations from three different countries gave us a platform to share with them the magical saga of India through a multi-cultural bouquet of events including sightseeing, Yoga sessions, exhibitions and an evening of a cultural extravaganza of lively folk dances and mellifluous songs.

The impeccable planning and relentless efforts of staff in executing the same bore fruit when the delegations left Mayo College with lifelong memories. The positive feedback and words of appreciation for hospitality, conduct of the competition, the variety of experiences with an all-inclusive itinerary, the cultural immersion and an above all looking for an opportunity to visit Mayo and India again gives us immense satisfaction. I am sure riding clubs from more countries would join this competition in the future which will give platform to the riders to showcase their equestrian skills. Moreover an event like this promotes interaction between different cultures and develops a better cultural bond and harmony among countries" _ Col Alankar Bhardwaj

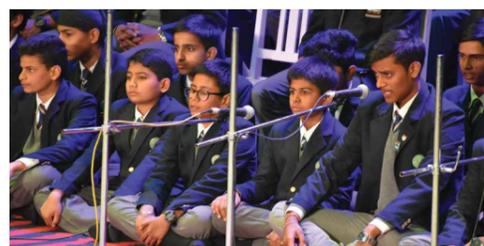
ALL PHOTOS © MAYO COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

etisalat sports

Supporting all Egyptian Champions



Kalbelia Dance by girls of Mayo College Girls' School



The Mayo Classical Song Chores



Yoga Dance



Chari Dance