

JERASH FRIENDLY INTERNATIONAL CLUB COMPETITIONS 2018

SHOW JUMPING IN JORDAN

FRIENDLY SPIRIT, YET SERIOUS PERFORMANCE

By HT Team

THE FRIENDLY INTERNATIONAL CLUB COMPETITION IN JORDAN WAS, AS ITS NAME STATES, A FRIENDLY COMPETITION, WARM, WELCOMING AND COLLEGIAL. BUT, MAKE NO MISTAKE, IT WAS ALSO SERIOUS IN PURPOSE AND PERFORMANCE AS IT STRICTLY FOLLOWED ALL THE FEI RULES APPLIED TO INTERNATIONAL SHOW JUMPING COMPETITIONS.



Team Forest Hill - Jordan - With Chef D'equipe Sharaf Eldin Ibrahim



Olaf Petersen – Course Designer



Ziad Tarek Hemida – Team Platinum club - Egypt

Team Platinum Club – Egypt

Team Southern Riding Club

The idea really stresses horsemanship; riding borrowed horses means the riders have to use all of their equestrian skills and training to accommodate those horses whether or not they are of a high standard.

Horse Times' team was lucky to be part of this wonderful experience. It was not just like any competition we usually attend. There was something extra special about this week in Jordan. Riders, coaches, officials, and organizers stayed in the same hotel, gathered in the same bus, ate all meals together and we even explored the country together. At the time of competition you could actually hear riders cheering for each other, regardless of where they come from. It was really nice to see clubs from five nations mingling all together like one family united on one concept "Horsemanship".

Through the diversity of the teams participating in this event, there was also a cultural aspect so we're not only discussing equitation, but also discussing the social interconnection between countries and this helped foster greater understanding between riders and officials to make this program grow and become more versatile and useful to its members.

One of the very wonderful things about this competition was, as I mentioned earlier, that it was about horsemanship. Each rider had to feel and understand the different horse that he or she was to ride. Sometimes you sit on a horse and your coach or your chef d'equipe decides that you should switch this horse with another one among the team members all for the best possible performance of the whole team. So it basically promoted different technical elements in each rider and each horse in the framework of teamwork.

The course was designed by the world-class course designer Olaf Petersen. FEI judge Yuri Valev of Bulgaria was also one of the officials as well as Dr.Kroum Rachkov the Vice president of the Bulgarian Equestrian Federation and Ms.Tatyana Molchanova the Secretary of IECA and member of the Bureau.

On the first day riders were allocated horses through a draw made by the officials and the coaches of each team. There was a training course and the next day was their first time to compete riding those horses. The results were as follows, first place went for Nikoletta Pavlova and Cherry from Club Kaloyan 92, Bulgaria, Chineque Smith & Karezma representing Southern Riding Club, South Africa came in second and Siwar Tabbalat riding Salam from Forest Hill Club, Jordan followed in third.

The Team competitions generated genuine excitement for the audience as well as the riders. It was a happy win for the home team of Jordan's Forest Hill Equestrian Club who clinched the gold, while Club Kaloyan 92, Bulgaria came in second and Platinum Club, Egypt came in third. On the individual level the gold medal was for Platinum Club's rider, Ziad Tarek Hemida.



Yuri Valev During Trip To Petra



Tatyana Molchanova , Sufian Barakat & Team Russia

And the final day was the Grand Prix which was a pleasant surprise for the Bulgarian Team who took home the gold and silver medals with Martina Todorova and Nikoletta Pavlova, while Southern Riding Club's Chineque Smith came in third and Egypt's Abdelrahman Khalil came in fourth.

"One of the best experiences I have ever had. As the name states it is a friendly competition, an experience more than a show jumping competition, team work more than individual work. I was very lucky to have an amazing horse, "It's Me". She was clear on all three competitions but knocked down one pole in the last fence of the jump-off of the last competition. My team and coaches were amazing; we all supported each other which is why we were very happy at the end," Khalil said.

After the competitions ended, Mr. Sufian Barakat surprised everyone with a marvellous journey to one of the world's seven wonders **The ancient city of Petra**. It was really an amazing day where everyone enjoyed every second of it.

The next leg of the tour will be held in St. Petersburg, Russia next June with teams representing each Club including Derby Club, Russia, Platinum Club, Egypt, Forrest Hill Club, Jordan, Southern Riding Club, South Africa, Club Kaloyan 92, Bulgaria, and a newcomer representing India. Following that, the event will be held in Egypt next October where the organizers promise a spectacular show at New Cairo's premier sports destination Platinum Club. 🏆

