



Sakara International Show Jumping Competition 13-15 November 1997

It was quite warm for an early November morning. A clear sky hung over a perfect mixture of desert and greenery, only to enhance the breathtaking surrounding effects. Yet, all this went unnoticed for a group of horse lover volunteers. Dressed in green ESG sweatshirts, the organizers hurried along to complete final touches just before the opening ceremony of Sakara International Show Jumping Competition '97 commences.

Equestrian Sports Group (ESG) founded by the three musketeers, Khaled Assem, Karim Habashi and Ibrahim Sami aims to promote and increase equestrian competitions in Egypt, by bringing on more creativity and skill to the scene. Together with the help and enthusiasm of an organizing committee, generous sponsors, European and Egyptian riders, The Egyptian Equestrian Federation and horse donators, the event was a great success.

14 fences were put up at a height of 130 - 135 cm for the Grand Prix. Among the 29 riders, only a few managed to clear their way to the jump off, emphasizing the advanced level of the competition. First place title along with a magnificent silver trophy was taken by "crème de la crème" Frenchman Thierry Pomel riding Royal Beach Black Jack, whilst second, third and fourth positions were won by Egyptian riders.

On behalf of ESG, everyone who helped in making this event come true is deeply thanked for his or her time and effort involved. We thank you all.

Amina Khalifa, Ahmed Hussein, Mostafa Mousa, Samir Abdel Fattah, Mona Adnan, Sima Fares, Sherin Alfred, Shahira Ghourab, Maha Maalouf, Yehia Attala, Mohamed Nafei, Sherif Abdel Baky, Yasmine El Habashy, Merit Fanous, Sherine Assem, Nassifa Sabongui, Salma Ali, Khaled Ali, Maged Shawky and last but not least Tom Hudson.



A Family Success

Sawaf may be a common surname in Egypt, but to showjumpers it means much more than just a name. Three members of this unique showjumper family have achieved great success in the equestrian sport in the past few years. General Ahmed El Sawaf began his riding career in 1971 in the Police Sports Union. Since then he has been continuously competing in Egypt as well as abroad, and is now one of the members of the Egyptian equestrian showjumping team.

Amongst his many victories, Sawaf recalls a remarkable horse named "Salam", with whom he won the "A" class two years in a row, 1983/1984 and 1984/1985 making him the champion of Egypt. In 1994/1995 and 1996/1997 Sawaf won 2nd and 3rd positions riding Ceasar and Greenwave, also in Grade "A". Unfortunately, Sawaf had to stop riding Greenwave due to the horse's illness in July '97, but he has recently made a comeback wining 2nd and 5th positions in Syria this March at the Basil El Asad Showjumping tournament in Damascus. Sawaf is currently riding Sugar, with whom he won 1st position in the "B" class both seasons 1996/1997 and 1997/1998.

Following their father's footsteps are Shady and Nahla El Sawaf. Both active riders they too have had their share of success. "I introduced my children to horses at an age as early as three years old," recalls Sawaf. "This allowed them to get to know and feel horses better."

Now competing under 18 years old, Shady is the reigning champion in Grade D riding Inshallah. He placed 6th with him last season, 1996/1997. Some other victories include conquering 1st and 2nd places riding Layla and Adel 1993/1994. Last but not least is Nahla competing under 14 years old. She won 1st title with Ghazal in 1994/1995. This season, 1997/1998 she came 2nd riding Lady in both showjumping and dressage and 5th on Barbie Girl in jumping.

Well this season has been a fruitful one for the Sawaf family, so lets keep our fingers crossed for them next year. And so a final word of advice - if you want continuous success, then do it the Sawaf style.