

# HORSE TIMES



no. 52

WINTER 2016

THE LEADING EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THE 9<sup>TH</sup> SALON DU CHEVAL D'EL JADIDA  
CARRIES A MESSAGE OF REVIVAL TO  
THE TRADITIONAL EQUESTRIAN ART

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Duncan Grice,  
Headmaster of Malvern  
College Egypt, talks about  
how the school develops  
leadership in its students.

Duncan Grice, Headmaster of Malvern College Egypt, talks about the first term at Malvern College Egypt. Located between Maadi and Kattameya, it offers expatriate and Egyptian children an outstanding holistic education here in Cairo.

### FIRST TERM COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENTS

There have been so many already. Starting with a very well attended Headmasters Coffee morning on the first day of school and culminating with our winter concert on December 14th, we have attempted this term to provide our community with a number of events that highlight the Malvern difference.



Additionally, we enjoyed a fiercely fought community adult quiz night where teams of six battled it out over visual and auditory rounds including music, movies, the world around us as well as questions on general knowledge and making connections.

We have also offered fifteen parent information sessions ranging from 'Learning in the Early Years' to 'Keeping Children Safe Online.' We firmly believe that we are a family of one and that we as a community need to work together to offer our children the best start in life.

### FIRST TERM SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Sport plays an enormous part in children's holistic education, whether that be competitive or just for pleasure. By offering three PE lessons per week, we hope to foster a love of sporting enjoyment that, as studies have proved, has beneficial outcomes on academic performance.



We have put together a small, young swim squad who have trained 2/3 times per week and have attended two swim meets this term already. Their progress has been very pleasing. Additionally, our girls and boys football teams have also represented the College in friendly matches with other schools. All squads were prepared and trained in advance and wore the appropriate kit, as sport should be fun and part of that comes down to knowing what it is that you are doing when the whistle blows and in feeling and looking good.

### STUDENT VOICE AND LEADERSHIP ACHIEVEMENTS

Student voice and developing future world leaders is something that we focus on greatly at Malvern College Egypt. We have already appointed a Head Boy and Head Girl who have undertaken a number of duties in their new roles, as well as a prefect leadership team with responsibility for sport, music, the arts, charities and the student council. Student councilors have been elected in each form to represent the voice of the student body at regular meetings.

### TEACHER RECRUITMENT

The recruiting season has already started, in fact I fly to Malvern next week to interview candidates there. We only recruit UK professionals who are obviously excellent in their field, but who are also flexible, fun and acutely aware of the learning needs of international students. Our staff come from some of the finest UK and British International Schools in the world. When recruiting, I ask myself one question: "Would I want this teacher teaching my daughters?" If that answer is a negative, then I do not appoint that teacher.

It has been a very long term with a great deal of hard work. However it has been immensely rewarding.

**Malvern College Egypt – a school of many nations but a family of one.**



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## VIEW POINT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We report from Argentina, the home of polo and the featured La Aguado Polo and Resort. Come with us to discover the soft side of the tough sport of polo in luxury. Rolf, the man with nerves of steel, efficiently grabs the title and the money at the LGCT final in Doha with utter confidence.

### Dear Readers,

Let me begin by wishing you all a very happy new year - a year full of travel, new experiences, hard work and rewarding results. In the final quarter of this year HT was privileged to witness the very colourful and trending Moroccan Royal Tour with tremendous hosting, innovative spirit and a wide smile from all the riders and the attendees. Ending with a cultural Equestrian panorama at the Salon du Cheval d'El Jadida where the art and skill of 'Horsemanship' is at its peak, mixing talent, values and tradition.

On to Germany grabbing the Furusiyya title in Barcelona where the team proves that skill, talent, resilience and well-tuned horse power takes you to the top.

Thierry Pomel, from a great rider to a great coach. HT feels it must give credit where it belongs. Thierry was the winner of the Cairo Grand Prix in 1997 and was interviewed in HT's first issue. Yes, 20 years have already gone by since our very first issue! So – put this on your calendar – a big celebration is set for HorseTimes' 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February at Platinum Club. We welcome you all.

Exquisite Egyptian Arabian beauty in an exquisite setting – HT was there at the 6<sup>th</sup> AHO Breeders' Egyptian Championship at the Rabab Stud last month. An incredible event showcasing our home-bred best of breed.

THANK YOU, VALEGRO! - In an

exclusive report HT covered this incredible and historic event at Olympia, London - from the Shetland Pony Grand National to the breath-taking puissance to the heart-felt farewell to one of the greatest dressage horses in history, Valegro.

One of the big names in the Egyptian showjumping field is Karim Habashi, who is also very active internationally, gives HT "60 Seconds" of his time to speak to us about his life with horses. Karim is a friend, a contributor to HT and a celebrity in the field.

In our regular features, please enjoy our articles on training, strategy and distances in showjumping, legal issues and tips for Equestrian contracts, as well as dressage tips, art history and modern Equine art for the cultural side of our world of horses.

Read on and enjoy..

Sincerely;

**Khaled Assem**

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### Publishers:

Permanent Press Ltd. Nicosia, Cyprus

### Prepress & Printing:

Headline Printing & Design

### On the cover:

Moroccan Tbourida  
© Driss Benmalek

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THE MOROCCO ROYAL TOUR  
**TRILOGY OF THE CHAMPIONS**

By Aya Amr



BASED ON A SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE CONCEPT, THE MOROCCO ROYAL TOUR IS IMAGINED VERY MUCH LIKE A TRILOGY: THREE CONSECUTIVE CITIES, THREE-DAY EVENTS, THREE INTERNATIONAL STARTS, THREE HORSES AND THREE SETTINGS. IN PREVIOUS EDITIONS, THE MRT WELCOMED MORE THAN TWENTY NATIONS, REPRESENTED BY WORLD STARS OF JUMPING, OLYMPIC MEDALISTS AND WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES MEDALISTS. THE PROGRAMME INCLUDES A CSI3 \* WITH 9 EVENTS, INCLUDING THREE GRAND PRIXS CSI3\* WORLD CUP QUALIFYING AND CSI1\*. THIS RICH PROGRAMME PLACES THE MRT AMONG THE MOST ATTRACTIVE MEETINGS ON THE INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR. THIS YEARS' EDITION WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE ORGANISATION OF THE CSIO3\*W "FURUSIYYA FEI NATIONS CUP" DURING THE RABAT COMPETITION.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, PRINCE MOULAY ABDELLAH ALAOUL

Following the high directives of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, The Morocco Royal Tour is organised by three prestigious institutions working for the promotion of the horse and Equestrian sports in Morocco: the Royal Moroccan Federation for Equestrian Sports, El-Jadida Horse Fair Association and La Garde Royale.

In 2015, the 6th edition was quite a success, judging from the number and quality of participating riders and horses. Likewise, the welcoming atmosphere and smooth running of the events contributed to this success. The CSI3\* kept its promise to the delight of an enthusiastic and passionate audience of riders, journalists, and many children increasingly attracted by the magic of this sport. In addition, the programme contest CSI1\*, as part of this tour, offered the opportunity for many Moroccan and international riders to start building their international experience. Full of enthusiasm and with a great will to progress, we will be pleased to welcome you to share moments of passion and emotion at the 7th edition of the Morocco Royal Tour.



### TETOUAN

It is not only the capital but also the cultural center of the Tangiers region in Northern Morocco. It is deemed to be the most Andalusian of all the cities in Morocco. As a flagship arts' city ever since the time of the Phoenicians, Tetouan has been able to mark the region and the country by its avant-garde influence in the political, social and cultural spheres. Its medina has been recognised as World Heritage by the UNESCO.

### Results of CSI 3\*W Tetouan – Grand Prix de S.A.R le Prince Héritier Moulay EL HASSAN

- 1.JUFER Alain & WIVEAU M (SUI)
- 2.GEERINK Sander & ROBINSON (NED)
- 3.PETER STEINER Nadja & CAPUERA II (SUI)
- 4.AL THANI Sheikh Ali & CAROLINA 31 (QAT)
- 5.HAMCHO Amre & SENORITA (SYR)
- 6.WILLIS Rowan & BLUE MOVIE (AUS)
- 7.BOUKAA El Ghali & COOL RUNNING (MAR)
- 8.Julia MARZIANI Luca & SAXO DES HAYETTES (ITA)
- 9.HANI BISHARAT Ibrahim & BOWIE Z (JOR)
- 10.GUERY Jérôme & PAPILLON Z (BEL)



## RABAT

Rabat, the Capital of Morocco, is located on the shore of the Atlantic Ocean and the left bank of the mouth of the Bouregreg River. The city was founded back in 1150 by the Almohads, who also set up a citadel therein, which later became known as Kasbah des Oudayas. The site served as a base for Almohad-led expeditions to Andalusia. Since June 2012, several sites in the city have been registered as cultural landmarks on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

For the first time in Morocco, the city of Rabat was the host nation for the furusiyya FEI Nations' Cup CSI 3\*W

### Results of the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup

1. BELGIUM
2. ITALY
3. SAUDI ARABIA
4. MOROCCO
5. SWITZERLAND
6. FRANCE
7. SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
8. QATAR
9. IRELAND
10. ALGERIA

### Results of the CSI 3\*W Grand Prix de Feu S.A.R La Princesse Lalla Amina

1. SCHWIZER Pius (SUI) & BALOU RUBIN R
2. CURRAN Captain Geoff (IRL) & RINGWOOD GLEN
3. DAIGNEUX-LANGE Fabienne (BEL) & VENUE D'FEES DES HAZALLES
4. AL THANI Sheikh Ali (QAT) & CAROLINA 31
5. GUERY Jérôme (BEL) & PAPIILLON Z
6. AL DUHAMI Ramzy Hamad (KSA) & GARLIC VH KAPELHOF
7. TURTURIELLO Francesco (ITA) & QUINOA DES PRES
8. GEERINK Sander (NED) & ROBINSON
9. PETER STEINER Nadja (SUI) & SAURA DE FONDCOMBE
10. HUGHES Marion (IRL) & CAN YA MAKAN



The winners of the Nations' cup, Team Belgium



Gaetan Decroix, Ibrahim Bisharat, Abdelkebir Ouaddar, Fabienne Daigneux-Lange & Pius Schwizer

### Results of CSI 3\*W Grand Prix DE SA MAJESTE LE ROI MOHAMED VI

1. BISHARAT Ibrahim & BOWIE Z (JOR)
2. OUADDAR Abdelkebir & QUICKLY DE KREISKER (MAR)
3. DAIGNEUX-LANGE Fabienne & VENUE D'FEES DES HAZALLES (BEL)
4. DECROIX Gaetan & QUEL HOMME DE HUS (BEL)
5. SCHWIZER Pius & BALOU RUBIN R (SUI)
6. Sheikh Ali Al Thani & CAROLINA 31 (QAT)
7. HAMCHO Ahmad Saber & CALLAHAN (SYR)
8. FOUTRIER Guillaume & BRENTANO D'AMAURY (FRA)
9. GUERY Jérôme & PAPILLON Z (BEL)
10. HAMCHO Amre & AL MURTAJIZ (SYR) 🏆



### EL JADIDA

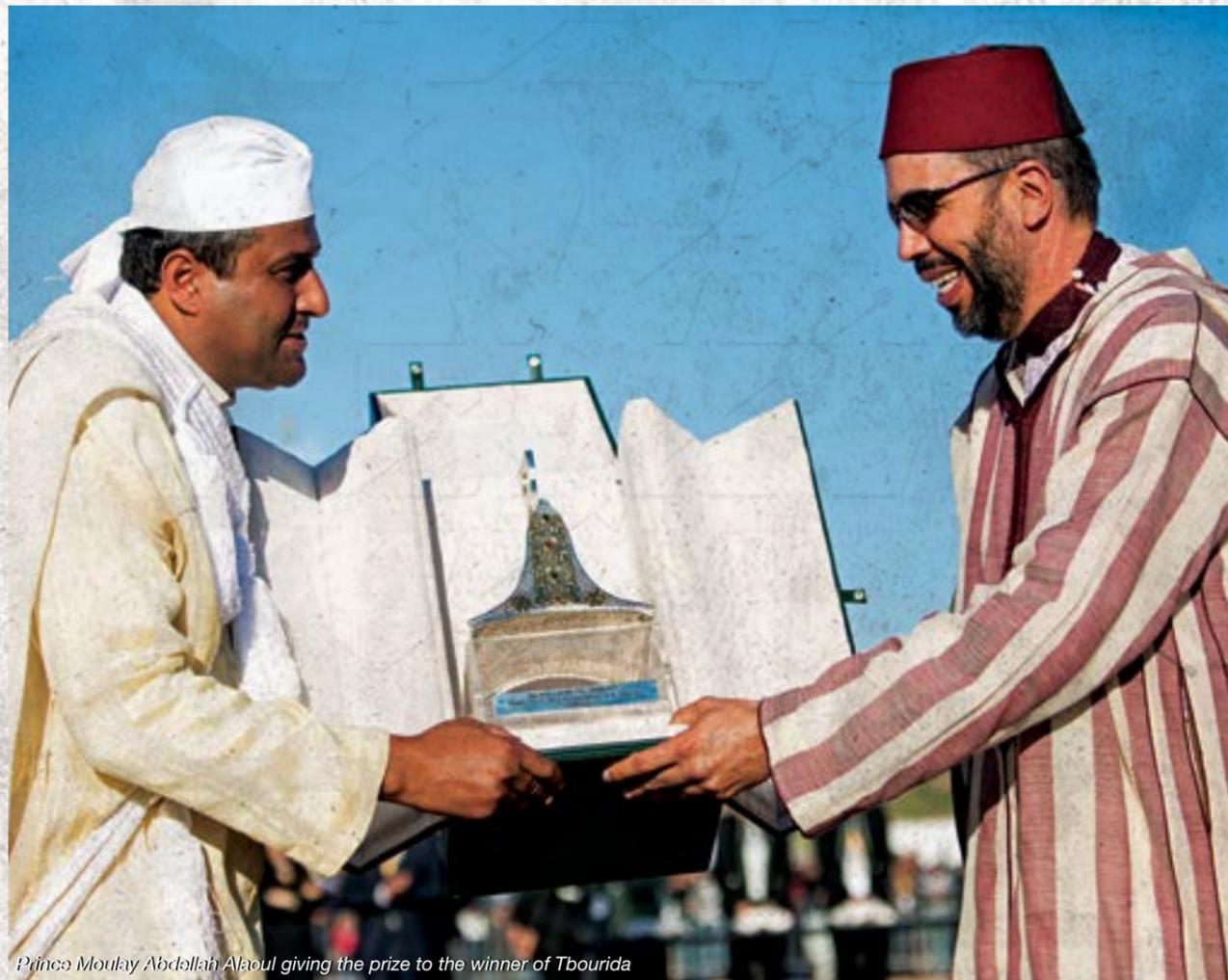
This coastal city, which is located 80km south of Casablanca, was a fortress erected by the Portuguese back at the beginning of the 16th Century. The fortifications of the Portuguese City provide an example of Portuguese military architecture during the Renaissance and stand witness to cross-cultural interactions and influences between Europe and Morocco. In June 2004, the City of El-Jadida was formally registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The El-Jadida region is famous for and prominent in horse breeding.





THE 9<sup>TH</sup> SALON DU CHEVAL D'EL JADIDA  
CARRIES A MESSAGE OF REVIVAL TO  
THE TRADITIONAL EQUESTRIAN ART

By Khaled Assem



Prince Moulay Abdallah Alaoul giving the prize to the winner of Tbourida

### THE PRESIDENT PRINCE MOULAY ABDELLAH ALAOUL

“Since the launching of our first edition in 2008, under the patronage of his Majesty King Muhammad IV, the SALON DU CHEVAL has strived to have an effective contribution to the development of the horse breeding sector and also to the spread of the Equestrian culture in Morocco.”

“Our commitment makes the “SALON DU CHEVAL” an annual gathering for the Equestrian audiences and professionals. This year the show’s theme is “**Traditional Equestrian arts**”, which stresses on our commitment

to the rise of the traditional equestrian crafts.”

“In October the Salon Du Cheval d’El Jadida hosted multiple nations which sponsor riding and horses, because this Equestrian heritage cannot be developed unless there is a huge international collaboration. We hope to see our audiences as scheduled to visit and participate in the activities held in the Salon du Cheval, honouring the traditional Equestrian arts of Morocco.”

### THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 8TH EDITION

- 7 days
- 700+ exhibitors

- 30 nationalities
- Portugal as a guest of honor
- 1000+ horses
- 700+ riders.
- 220,000+ visitors including 20,000 children
- 450+ international and national certified journalists
- 455,699,387 followers
- 80+ articles covered the event
- 100+ interviews for the press
- Signing a partnership agreement with the “Arabian Horse Organization”
- The visit of His Majesty Prince Abdul-Aziz Ahmed Ben Abdul-Aziz, president of Arabian Horse Organization

- The visit of His Majesty Sheikh Sultan Ben Zayed Al-Nahyan
- The organisation of His Highness Sheikh Mansour Ben- Zayed’s “Arabian Horse Photography Competition”
- The visit of His Highness Sheikh Humaid bin Rashid Al Nuaimi, Prince of Ajman state, UAE

### THIS YEAR’S EDITION

The 9th SALON DU CHEVAL had a very rich programme which included high standard national and international competitions, in addition to a variety of artistic shows and cultural activities.

### THE THEME: “The traditional Equestrian Arts”

The Salon du Cheval sheds the light on the Moroccan Equine industry, from craftsmen to breeders, through promoting the richness of the kingdom in the field with its unique Tbourida and Barb horses. Horses are considered as a major attribute to the Moroccan history that requires protection and preservation. The show is a method of reminding us of the historical crafts related to the Equine industry, like blacksmithing and gun manufacturing which are almost vanishing nowadays. The 9th Salon du Cheval encourages the revival and development of these crafts.

### CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### 1) Moroccan Breeders Cup for Arabian Horses

This contest is organised by the Salon du Cheval in partnership with Arabian Horse Organization. The event introduces horses which were originally selected from regional and national Arabian Horse Beauty competitions.

#### 2) The International Arabian Horses Beauty Competition

This competition is organised in partnership with The Moroccan Royal Association of Horse Breeders and The Royal Company. It includes about a hundred “A” class horses representing different



Gaetan Decroix, Ibrahim Bisharat, Abdelkebir Ouaddar, Fabienne Daigneux-Lange & Pius Schwizer



Mrs. Mouna Mohattane, the Communication Manager of Salon Du Cheval

© HORSE TIMES

European and Middle Eastern countries; the competition adheres to the rules of The European Conference of Arab Horse Organization.

### 3) The International Barb Horses Championship

The event is held under the sponsorship of the International Organization of Barb Horses (OMCB) where 60 horses, representing different North African and European countries, compete.

### 4) Arabian Horse Riding Competition

This competition is being held for the second time since the start of Salon du Cheval, where riders from France,

UAE and Morocco compete in riding and taming Arabian horses.

### 5) The Horse Endurance Competition in Atlas Forest

This competition is being held for the first time in the history of Salon du Cheval, located in the amazing natural routes of Atlas Cedar Forests.

### 6) World Showjumping Competition 1\*/3W\*

This competition is considered as one of the largest Equestrian events in the world; it includes 13 Longines competitions which award 3 grand prizes for CSI3\* that qualify riders to the World Cup. The schedule

also has 18 games in CSI1\*, in which all of the games are supervised by the world Equestrian university. The prize money for each of the CSI3\* competitions is 177,000 Euros, in addition to 50,000 Euros which is the prize money for each of the 1\* competitions.

### 7) His Highness Sheikh Mansour Ben Zayed Equine Photography Competition

In the 9th edition of Salon du Cheval, the Arab Photographers Union holds a photography competition, with the title of "Arabian Horses" in addition to having "Tbourida" as a new attribute. Five photographers were chosen as winners during the Salon du Cheval.



The International Barb Horses Championship



The International Arabian Horses Beauty Competition



School Children attending the Salon

### AN EDUCATIONAL ASPECT

The exhibition hosts more than 20,000 children aiming to introduce the Equestrian world to the younger audiences. This introduction was given through a series of fun and entertaining events, which included:

- Pony riding classes
- Horse games
- Horse-cart rides
- Magic Games and makeup workshops
- Photography lessons
- Art lessons

### TESTIMONIALS

- OMAR SKALLI, Director of SOREC

"We are proud to introduce such a rich contribution through the beautiful "Salon du Cheval", which is really one of the best horse shows in the world"

- HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ABDULAZIZ BIN AHMED AL-SAUD, President of Arabian Horse Organization

"We are blessed today as we are going to sign a partnership agreement with "Le Salon du Cheval". As we all know, this corporation is a leading entity that supports the Equestrian industry and we are keen on supporting sports that are related to Arabian horses."

- Doctor Mohamed Machmoum

"This year, the championship is carrying more than one title, beginning with the best quality of participant horses. Then, in terms of number, we have broken all the records. And finally I can also assure that we have an extraordinary infrastructure. Without any exaggeration, I can definitely say that "Le Salon du Cheval", is considered one of the best international horse shows".

- LORENZO, International Equestrian Artist

"Changing the structure of the location like that, gave "Le Salon du Cheval" an international dimension, which I truly find amazing".



## JUMPER OF THE YEAR

# THE STORY OF BERTRAM ALLEN

### A YOUNG JOCKEY WITH EXQUISITE SKILLS

By Menna Loutfy

HE WAS GIVEN MANY TITLES ALONG HIS RIDING JOURNEY, BEING THE YOUNGEST RIDER TO COMPETE IN THE WORLD EQUESTRIAN GAMES IN CAEN, NORMANDY, FRANCE, IN 2014 . HE WAS NAMED THE IRISH FIELD SENIOR SHOWJUMPER OF THE YEAR, IRISH FIELD STAR OF THE YEAR AND THE YOUNG SPORT STAR OF THE YEAR. A RIDER WITH SKILLS BEYOND HIS 21 YEARS OF AGE, THIS YEAR BERTRAM ALLEN WAS TITLED 'JUMPER OF THE YEAR' BY THE IRISH EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE.

## GROWING UP AS A RIDER

A story of a boy who was born in the county of Wexford, Ireland in **1995**. Bertram grew up in a family of horses by tradition; his parents bred racehorses and taught him to ride at a young age. He was eight when he started riding ponies in the countryside and on Hunts along with his siblings, who also have noticeable contributions to the sport. In **2010**, Bertram made his first European presence in the European Pony Championships held at Bishop Burton College in East Yorkshire, England. With the companionship of his beautiful mare Acapella Z, he was the only rider to jump four clear rounds in the pony class, winning the Gold medal in the individual competition.

*"It is always a privilege to train good horses and good jockeys. I have trained this partnership from day one, and they have always been on an upward curve,"* commented Allen's trainer, former Irish Army show jumping star Con Power.

## THE TRIP TO GERMANY

A year later in **2011**, the young man had a transition year in school, so he went to Hunxe, Germany to improve his riding skills. After a while he decided to stay there and his parents supported that by buying him a stable. Luckily, this stable was only twenty minutes away from Marcus Ehning, who then became Bertram's trainer and mentor.

*"It is his incredible talent that has enabled him to prove himself in the sport at such a young age. Bertram has a super eye and a great instinct"* Marcus says.

Aged only **16**, Bertram was by himself in a different country, responsible for managing the stable. He spoke about his strategy

in the horse business, saying that his focus is to buy youngsters that are not too expensive and train them well until they are eight or nine year olds.

The young champion competes with different horses, but a lot of his major results were in partnership with the beautiful grey mare, **Molly Malone V**. On a YouTube interview with Animo TV, he spoke of her saying, *"I got Molly when she was quite young. She was only five years old, so I can definitely say that she grew up with me. Molly's a really fantastic horse."*

## A SERIES OF OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES

The beginning was when Bertram Allen was **17**; he placed **7th** in the individual Junior European Championship Ebreichsdorf AUT. Due to his unquestionable talent along with hard work and persistence, he succeeded in becoming the **Silver medalist** at the same championship the following year at the Junior European Championship Ebreichsdorf AUT **2013**.

The year **2014** marked his first participation in the **World Equestrian Games** in Caen, France, where he was the youngest rider in competition. The magnificent rider accompanied with Molly Malone ranked **7th**. The following year Bertram and Molly won the **Bronze medal** in the **FEI World Cup** in Las Vegas, USA.

But unfortunately, the road is never clear of stumbles. The only controversy in the rider's story was back in the **2015** London Olympia Horse show.

## AN UNFORTUNATE EVENT

The Olympia Grand Prix CSI5\* winner Bertram Allen was disqualified by the Ground Jury

under Article 242.3.1 of the FEI Jumping Rules. The FEI steward examined Quiet Easy in the mandatory post-competition boot and bandage control, when she found blood on his offside flank.

Allen tried to file an appeal on the disqualification which was lodged by **Ms. Mhairi Alexander** with the help of the horse's owner **Emma Phillips**. The appeal committee upheld the decision that was taken by the ground jury, that he was correctly disqualified from competition.

*"I am devastated by the decision of the ground jury to eliminate me and my horse. Quiet Easy's performance was truly outstanding. At some point during my very fast round against the clock, my leg must have slipped giving my horse the tiniest of nicks on his side which bled ever so slightly."*

*"I totally understand the rules in relation to the treatment of horses in competition, but I'm disappointed that the officials didn't use any discretion on this occasion"*.

The rider later spoke of his gratitude to his friends, supporters and family who stood by him at that time.

## THE STORY IS JUST BEGINNING

All stories have endings, but the hero of this story still has a lot ahead of him. Bertram Allen is definitely one of the best riders in the world. He was lucky enough to be born in a family of riders who supported him, in addition to a strong talent in riding which contributed significantly to his success. Having that much of a strong background of achievements at this young age, Bertram Allen has a bright future ahead of him. 🏆



Ireland's Bertram Allen & Molly Malone at the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2014 in Normandy



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GERMANY TAKES 2016 FURUSIYYA TITLE  
**ON A NIGHT TO REMEMBER  
IN BARCELONA**

By Louise Parkes

TEAM GERMANY CLAIMED THE FURUSIYYA FEI NATIONS CUP™ JUMPING 2016 TROPHY AT THE REAL CLUB DE POLO IN BARCELONA (ESP) TONIGHT, BUT NOT WITHOUT A FIERCE FIGHT WITH THE RUNNERS-UP FROM GREAT BRITAIN. ON A NIGHT TO REMEMBER, IT CAME DOWN TO A BREATH-TAKING JUMP-OFF BETWEEN NEWLY-CROWNED INDIVIDUAL OLYMPIC CHAMPION NICK SKELTON AND GERMANY'S MARCUS EHNING TO DECIDE THE RESULT. AND EMOTIONS RAN HIGH AS WINNING TEAM MEMBER, LUDGER BEERBAUM, SAID GOODBYE TO THIS GREAT SPORT WITH A TRADEMARK FOOT-PERFECT PERFORMANCE. YOU COULD HARDLY HEAR A PIN DROP DURING HIS LAST-TO-GO ROUND WITH CASELLO WHICH ENSURED THE TWO-WAY SHOWDOWN THAT WOULD SEAL VICTORY FOR HIS COUNTRY.

Team USA claimed the third step of the podium when finishing with just four faults on the board, but they were hotly pursued by Italy, Ireland and Switzerland who each finished with five as the time-allowed played its part. The defending champions from Belgium had to settle for sixth place ahead of the Dutch whose form seems to have deserted them in recent months.

### Cream

Once again course designer **Santiago** Varela presented a superb track that took a lot of jumping and brought the cream to the top. The majority of mistakes came at the end of the course, with the penultimate triple combination taking a heavy toll, but there were accuracy questions all the way around. The eight teams that qualified from Thursday's first round all started on level pegging again today so it was a wide-open contest from the start. It quickly became apparent however that the British would be major contenders when Skelton's opening clear with his Olympic gold-medal-winning ride Big Star was followed by another from Michael Whitaker and Viking.

Under the unique set of rules for the **Furusiyya Final** each country nominates a total of five riders and it was notable that the top three teams all called up new recruits today for their four-member sides. British Chef d'Equipe, Di Lampard, brought in Jessica Mendoza and Spirit T in place of John Whitaker and Ornellaia, but with 12 faults for the youngest team member it fell to Scott Brash to rescue the situation with a clear from Ursula which saw his side post the first zero score of the competition.

And the only ones to match them would be the Germans, although they also had to wait for their last man to go. **World no. 1**, Christian Ahlmann set them up with a lovely tour of the track from the ever-reliable Taloubet Z, but they stuttered when Marcus Ehning's Pret a Tout hit the last element of the triple combination. Janne Friederike Meyer was called up to replace Daniel Deusser and First Class van Eeckelghem and she steadied the German ship with a typically flamboyant clear from the fabulous Goya which meant that if Ludger Beerbaum could follow suit then they could continue to stalk their British rivals.

### Spine-chilling

Tonight's round by Beerbaum was spine-chilling, so many people around the ring willing the 53-year-old rider around the arena because they really wanted to see this man who has been such a hero of the sport for so many years go out on a good note. He will continue to ride as an individual, but tonight was his curtain-call as a team-member and everyone wanted it to go right. The entire stadium was gripped with tension waiting for him to cross the line, and when he did there was a huge burst of applause and it would take a jump-off now to decide the new Furusiyya champions.

The Americans were already assured of third place, Lauren Hough's four faults with Ohlala - at the very final oxer - followed by a double-error from Audrey Coulter and Capital Colnardo before 19-year-old Lillie Keenan pulled it back with a fantastic clear from Super Sox. Called in at the last moment when Lucy Davis' Barron wasn't quite himself, Keenan really measured up under pressure and when Laura Kraut was also fault-free with Zeremonie then the US total of four faults would drop them in behind the two teams now vying for the title.

### Scorched

Skelton was first into the jump-off and scorched around the new track in 41.82 seconds to set the target. This would ensure a generous share of the **€200,000 bonus** on offer to riders jumping double-clear over the first round and again today. But Ehning said afterwards that he already knew he could beat the Olympic champion. "I watched him go and I knew I could be faster than him. I was really under pressure - I wanted this win for Ludger as it was his last Nations Cup" he explained. Ehning once said that he will never be the fastest rider on the planet so that is why he uses his turning skills to full effect, and tonight he did just that, cutting corners everywhere and galloping down to the last more than two seconds up on the clock to clinch it.

For all of the German team, tonight's win was particularly poignant. Janne Friederike Meyer put some perspective on it. "I can still remember my first Nations Cup with Ludger in Rotterdam, he has always been a great idol for my generation and I was so proud to be with him again in his last Nations Cup. I was called in for Daniel and I knew Daniel could have done a clear round so I wanted



Germany's Daniel Deusser & First Class van Eeckelghem



Germany's Marcus Ehning & Pret A Tout



Netherlands's Gerco Schroder



Germany's Ludger Beerbaum & Casello



Egypt's Abdel Said & California



USA's Laura Kraut & Zeremonie



Germany's Ludger Beerbaum & Casallo

© Hippo Foto - Dirk Caremans



Belgium's Gregory Wathelet & Coree

© Jim Hollander/FEI



Mexico's Jose Antonio Egua Chedraui & Ninloubet, 22

© Jim Hollander/FEI



Team Germany

© Richard Julliant / FEI



Team USA

© Richard Julliant



Austria's Julia Kayser & Sterrehof S Cayetano Z

© Jim Hollander/FEI

to do this clear round for Daniel and for Ludger and the whole team. There are some special days and today was one of them - everyone could feel it when Ludger went in and everybody knew this man had to go clear to keep the chance of winning. Every single fence, everybody jumped with him and then he was clear and everyone went crazy!" she said.

### Send-off

For the Germans, this Furusiyya Final has always been about giving Ludger Beerbaum a good send-off from the team. "In the last couple of weeks we were really looking forward to Ludger's last Nations Cups" said Daniel Deusser tonight. "We really wanted to win a medal in the Olympic Games and to do one big thing again. We have had a lot of very strong teams over the last couple of years and the last couple of months but in the end we were always missing a little bit of luck, one fault too many. At the Olympic Games we were really happy, we had a great fight and finished with the bronze medal which made us extremely happy but somehow the last last big win was still missing. This weekend didn't start really good with my horse getting sick, but everything turned out perfect at the end. All five of us worked together and the dream really came true, that we won Ludger's last Nations Cup, it couldn't be better!"

Beerbaum admitted that tonight's prizegiving brought back memories of his individual gold medal victory with Classic Touch at the Real Club de Polo during the Barcelona Olympic Games back in 1992. And he was very touched by his team-mate's tributes. "The way they expressed their thoughts, their feelings, their emotions about our performances in the past months, the good luck, the bad luck, the good moments but also the disappointing moments that says it all. They were really fighting for me today and it's unbelievable to have this support. For me it couldn't be a nicer end", he said.

### Transformed

FEI President, Ingmar de Vos, talked about the input from Furusiyya that has transformed the sport of Nations Cup Jumping in recent years. "Four years ago my predecessor HRH Princess Haya was here at the first press conference for the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup. Today I got a message from the Saudi Equestrian Fund, from His Highness Prince Faisal - the brain behind the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup - to really congratulate the German team on this victory. We are very happy with the Furusiyya series. What it has done for the FEI and the sport in general is incredible.

"In 2012 we had discussions about remodelling the Nations Cup, making it a series with qualifiers and a final, and at that time it was a very controversial decision. But I think we have proven together with Furusiyya and the Saudi Equestrian Fund that it's the way to go. They invested in this product to create a legacy and we are very grateful for that. This partnership is coming to an end as you know, and it is up to us to find a new partner. Thanks to the Saudi Equestrian Fund and HRH Princess Haya we have a sustainable series for the future."

### Longines Challenge Cup

The Longines Challenge Cup has now been rescheduled for Sunday morning. The starting time for the competition is provisionally 11.30, but that will be confirmed tomorrow morning at 09.00 depending on the weather conditions.

### Result:

1. Germany 0 in first round, 0/39.80 in jump-off: Taloubet Z (Christian Ahlmann) 0, Pret a Tout (Marcus Ehning) 4/0 39.80, Goja (Janne Freiderike Meyer) 0, Casello (Ludger Beerbaum) 0.
2. Great Britain 0 in first round, 0/41.57 in jump-off: Big Star (Nick Skelton) 0/0 41.57, Viking (Michael

Whitaker) 0, Spirit T (Jessica Mendoza) 12, Ursula XII (Scott Brash) 0.

3. USA 4 faults: Ohlala (Lauren Hough) 4, Capital Colorado (Audrey Coulter) 8, Super Sox (Lillie Keenan) 0, Zeremonie (Laura Kraut) 0.

4. Italy 5 faults/ 223.03 seconds: Casallo Z (Piergiorgio Bucci) 8, Ensor de Litrange LxII (Lorenzo de Luca) 0, Antonio (Gianni Govoni) 1, Tower Mouche (Bruno Chimirri) 4.

5. Ireland 5 faults/225.81 seconds: Golden Hawk (Shane Breen) 8, Go Easy de Muze (Darragh Kenny) 0, All Star 5 (Denis Lynch) 1, MHS Going Global (Greg Broderick) 4.

6. Switzerland 5 faults/226.34 seconds: Quorida de Trejo (Romain Duguet) 0, Corbinian (Steve Guerdat) 8, Lord Pepsi (Paul Estermann) 1, Clooney 51 (Martin Fuchs) 4.

7. Belgium 16 faults: Bisquet Balou C (Nicola Philippaerts) 4, Cas de Liberte (Niels Bruynseels) 8, Grand Cru van de Rozenberg (Jerome Guery) 8, Coree (Gregory Wathelet) 4.

8. Netherlands 20 faults: Emerald NOP (Harrie Smolders) 9, VDL Groep Arera C (Maikel van der

Vleuten) 8, Caruso S La Silla (Jeroen Dubbeldam) 4, Glock's London NOP (Gerco Schroder) 8.

### Facts and Figures:

Team Germany won the fourth edition of the Furusiyya FEI Nations Cup™ Jumping Final at the Real Club de Polo in Barcelona, Spain tonight.

8 teams qualified for the second and deciding Final competition, and it came down to a jump-off between the eventual champions and Great Britain when each were tied on a zero score after the first round.

Great Britain was represented by the horse-and-rider partnership that claimed individual gold at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games last month - Nick Skelton and Big Star.

Germany's Marcus Ehning steered Pret a Tout to a faster jump-off round to clinch it when second to go against the clock.

German veteran, Ludger Beerbaum, made his final appearance for his national team tonight a winning one, producing a vital clear with Casello to ensure a jump-off.

According to the special rules applying to the Furusiyya Final, countries were permitted to call up reserve riders for tonight's competition and each of the podium placed teams did so.

Team USA finished third when posting a four-fault result.

The winning German team also included world no. 1, Christian Ahlmann with his 16-year-old campaigner Taloubet Z and Janne Friederike Meyer riding Goya.

### Quotes:

Santiago Varela, course designer: Congratulations to the winners, they did a super job on Thursday and today. I'm really happy with the result, really proud of the winners, and Ludger winning his last Nations Cup was super exciting! Marcus did an amazing job, his turn to fence no 10 was unbelievable and to beat Nick is unbelievable!"

Otto Becker, Chef d'Equipe Germany: "Thank you to FEI and to Furusiyya and Prince Faisal that for what they did this for the sport and for the Nations Cup. And thanks to the Organising Committee - when we saw the weather yesterday it was so bad

but then today we had perfect conditions."

Christian Ahlmann GER: "Overall it was a perfect day for all of us, it couldn't have been better today from first to the last! Ludger's clear at the end, Marcus' jump-off, it was exciting to the very end, a great class for all of us and couldn't be more happy today!"

Francisco Espinós, President of Real Club de Polo: "The Barcelona Olympic Games were an unforgettable moment for our club, not to mention a key element in the expansion of equestrianism in our city. Since then, Ludger Beerbaum has become a legend for us all, and in this sense, thank you Ludger for all these years and the best of luck for this new phase in your career."

Ludger Beerbaum GER, talking after a special presentation this afternoon to mark his retirement from team competition: Ludger : "Life has been good to me and I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to do the sport. I am grateful in many areas, my family, my owners, the people who trusted in me. Now is the time for me to be aware of this and thank everyone for what is important. I'm happy with the decision, it wasn't taken over

the last few days or weeks, it was made some months before Rio and I have no regrets. I'm really thankful, and of course I wish of my team-mates the best of luck for the future."

Count of Salvatierra, Cayetano Martínez de Irujo, Spanish showjumping legend and former President of the International Jumping Riders Club: "The first time I met Ludger at a meeting of the International Jumping Riders Club he seemed cold and distant. But in the end he turned out to be a hard-working, goal-driven and kind person. He learned to be more comfortable around his colleague, and over the years he has established many long-lasting friendships."

Otto Becker, Chef d'Equipe Germany: "I'm very, very happy with my team - all five were involved in the two rounds, and I'm really proud of how all five rode today. I'm especially proud of the two who took the pressure, Ludger had to go clear in Rio and here in his last Nations Cup and he had to do it again. Marcus had very bad luck in Rio but he was amazing under pressure today." 🏆

*This article was first published on FEI.org*



Great Britain's Scott Bash & Ursula XII



France's Penelope Leprevost & Flora de Mariposa



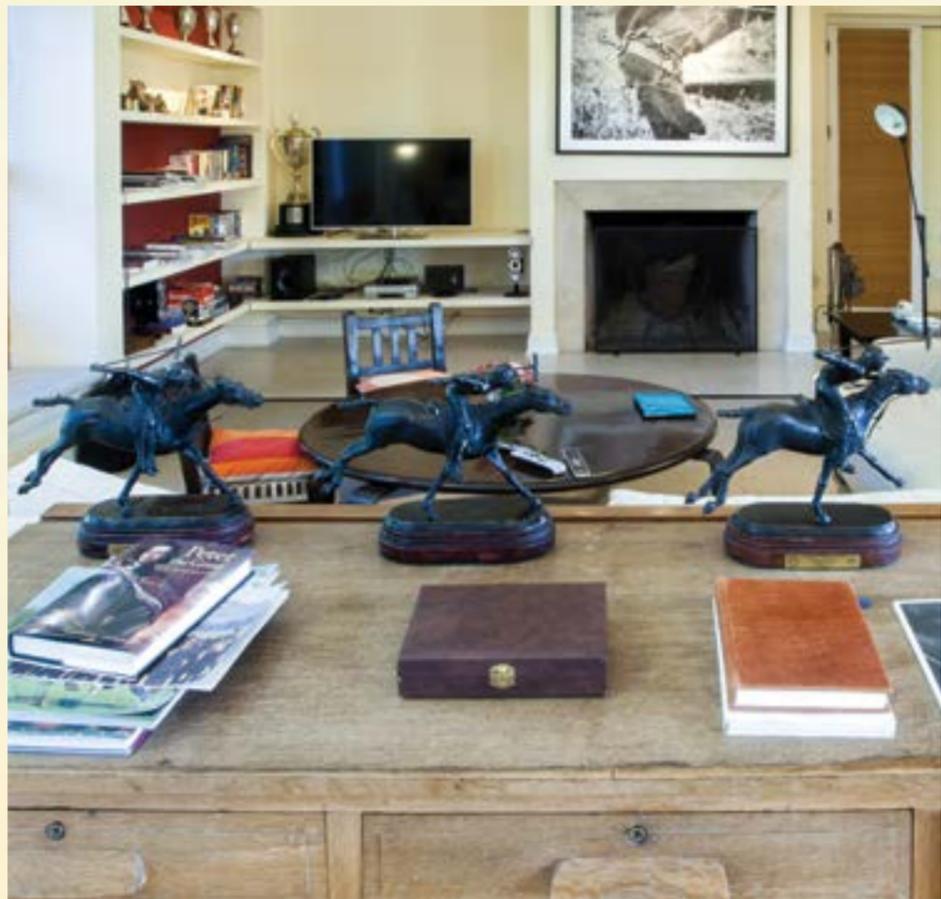
## POLO

# LA AGUADA POLO & RESORT

THE ULTIMATE IN LUXURY AND SPORT IN ARGENTINA

By Maristella Mantuano

EXCLUSIVE AND UNRIVALLED. THESE ARE THE ADJECTIVES THAT  
BEST DESCRIBE THE SPORT IN WHICH ARGENTINA IS THE  
*“NON PLUS ULTRA”* WORLDWIDE: POLO.



Even in the vastness of an Argentinian “**estancia**”, like La Aguada Polo & Clinic Resort (**300** acres and **5th** largest grounds in the country), the sound of the horses’ hooves galloping and the screaming of the players in the midst of a busy match resound along the field where, seated on the scented grass, you can sip a fizzy drink in the red dusk of the Southern Hemisphere. But don’t make yourself too comfortable: at halftime, spectators are expected on the field to stomp the divots raised by hooves during the fray.

To take part in this golden world of **La Aguada** (translated as the “watering hole”), even if only for a weekend, is now possible, located as it is just **65** kilometers away from **Buenos Aires**, the capital. It is truly an unforgettable experience because it takes place in close contact with the players, the horses, and those who tend to their daily care, and with a professional and affectionate staff guided by **Florencia**, the Resort Manager. At the center of this beautiful setting of trees and rolling hills, what stands out is “**La**

**Rosada**”, the splendid mansion of the world famous **Novillo Estrada family**, which for **4** generations has been in the business of producing top-ranked polo players and polo ponies.

It is in this marvelous atmosphere that **four annual tournaments** take place, starting with one honouring the founder of this family tradition, **Don Julio Novillo Astrada**, in the Palermo Open in Buenos Aires. The formidable polo team “La Aguada” is composed of **4** brothers from this family and in **2003** won all **3** important world championships.

**Tomas**, the Polo Manager, will escort you on a visit to the four-legged stars in their stables. They sleep on soft beds, follow a particular diet, travel by plane, are washed, brushed and taken out for training daily: they are true athletes. The most famous one here is **Anonima** (curious oxymoron of the name). Her value is priceless, of precious lineage. Because of this, an entire area is dedicated to reproduction. After artificial insemination, the embryos of

these most valued horses are then implanted in the wombs of surrogate horses that carry on the pregnancy, an unnatural practice which allows these horses to continue playing and winning while continuing their lineage. Only when the moment arrives for them to retire from this sport are they completely dedicated to reproduction. Because of this (and their docile nature) they are preferred to males.

The youngest of the Novillo Astrada brothers **Alejandro, 34**, explains that they have decided to open the doors of their property offering deluxe accommodations, allocating **9** spacious and luxuriously decorated rooms for guests visiting from all parts of the world, even if only for a weekend.

You will be awoken by the chirping sounds of birds drinking from an outside pool facing your large glass windows, overlooking a flowering patio where you can sip “**mate**” (Argentine tea) accompanied by “**facturas y alfajores de maicena**” (flavoured rolls). The enormous grill is always

ready to prepare an unforgettable “**asado**” (BBQ) of tender Argentinian meat to be shared with other guests, served on the large wood table in the dining room, directly next to the square kitchen with its big cooking island and overhead pots and pans of every shape and dimension, and all around, the capable hands of cooks in uniform preparing delicacies of every kind for the guests. Truly, a, unique experience where sport and luxury are combined in perfect chemistry, business as usual at the home of polo. 🍷

*Info:*  
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*Photos by Victor Liotine*

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ROLF FULFILS LGCT TITLE DREAM

WITH AMAZING CASALL



IT WAS A NIGHT OF DREAMS AND THE STORY OF THOSE WHO NEVER GIVE UP, AS ROLF-GÖRAN BENGTTSSON (SWE) AND THE PHENOMENAL 17 YEAR OLD STALLION CASALL ASK CLAIMED BOTH THE LONGINES GLOBAL CHAMPIONS TOUR GRAND PRIX OF DOHA WIN AND THE PRESTIGIOUS 2016 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS TITLE IN A MAGNIFICENT SHOWDOWN IN QATAR. DESCRIBING THE TITLE WIN AS “A DREAM COME TRUE”, ROLF HERALDED HIS MAGNIFICENT HORSE CASALL AS “JUST AMAZING”, WITH THEIR 11 YEAR PARTNERSHIP ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED IN THE WORLD.

His powerful season performance propelled him into pole position in the ranking for the final leg in Doha and Rolf's victory saw him take the lion's share of the **€1 million** bonus prize money as he takes his place on the list of LGCT Champions. On a Tour that saw the world's top show jumpers visit **15** incredible destinations, kicking off in Miami Beach, and reaching spectacular cities such as Mexico City, Monaco, Shanghai and Rome, it was the culmination of a fantastically consistent season for Rolf and Casall, with the pair taking wins in Valkenswaard and Paris, as well as podium finishes at other stops on the circuit.

In a night of high drama, Edwina Tops-Alexander (AUS) narrowly missed out on making history by becoming the first rider to win a hat-trick of titles, after a shock exit in the first round with fiery mare Lintea Tequila saw their Championship hopes dashed. The leading Australian rider settled for silver, and was delighted for Rolf, saying “**he truly deserved it tonight**”. World Number 1 and former long-time leader of the LGCT Ranking Christian Ahlmann (GER) was able to keep hold of his third place in the rankings after a strong performance from top stallion Taloubet Z, despite the threat from fellow Olympic athletes below.

In the press conference following the Grand Prix, it was revealed that the prestigious final event of the Longines Global Champions Tour will be staged at **AL SHAQAB** for the next three years. **His Highness The Father Emir Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani and Sheikh Joaan bin Hamad Al Thani** attended the final to witness the climax of the 2016 series, which was followed by the announcement of the new **three-year agreement**.

Sheikh Joaan also joined the prize giving awarding the Champions trophy to Rolf-Göran Bengtsson in a sign of Qatar's commitment to the promotion of world class equestrian sport and the increasing popularity of show jumping and riding in the country.

The magnificent AL SHAQAB equestrian centre was the perfect backdrop for a night of top level sport. Course designer **Uliano Vezzani** set a challenging first round, throwing questions to the **41** starters to open the LGCT Grand Prix of Doha. Despite first rider to go Marco Kutscher (GER) jumping a clean clear with Clenur, thrills and spills came thick and fast, with John Whitaker (GBR) almost unseated at the final Liverpool



Rolf-Göran Bengtsson & Casall ASK

fence by top mare Ornellaia. With a stop that would have dropped many of the best riders, John was able to sit tight, but the unfortunate fault knocked him out of the running. Bassem Hassan Mohammed (QAT) also had a hairy moment at fence **three**, a gappy oxer, with Dejavu knocking the popular Qatari rider off balance and causing him to lose a stirrup. Despite this, Bassem continued to the complex double combination, jumping a further **three** fences with just **one stirrup** before regaining it for the Longines triple. Despite the drama, the pair jumped clear, much to the delight of the local spectators, however picked up a time fault.

But the story of round one was Title rival Edwina Tops-Alexander's (AUS) shock exit from the competition, after rolling two poles in an uncharacteristic round with Lintea Tequila. The **8** faults meant Rolf would keep his winning lead of **5** points, and be crowned **2016** Champion of Champions.

Further big names were caught out at various elements on the course. Scott Brash (GBR) and Hello M'Lady were unlucky to pick up four faults, Lauren Hough (USA) and the eye-catching Cornet 39 collect a total of **8** penalties, while home hero Sheikh Ali Bin Khalid Al Thani (QAT) also rolled a pole with his Olympic horse First Devision, however was able to progress to round two after making up time with skilful riding. Despite the pressure now off the shoulders of Rolf, he and Casall delivered a stunning round, which left the rest of the field in no doubt of his intent to win the Grand Prix as well as the Championship title.

The top **18** riders would progress to round two, an impressive **9** of whom were German riders, including the full Olympic team, as well as rising stars Philip Houston (GER) and Andreas Kreuzer (GER). After his masterful first round, Rolf-Göran Bengtsson (SWE) was in pole position and the final rider to go. Laura Kraut

(USA) and Zeremonie, Simon Delestre (FRA), Lorenzo de Luca (ITA), Meredith Michaels-Berbaum (GER), Christian Ahlmann (GER), Daniel Deusser (GER), Janne-Freiderike Meyer (GER) and Marco Kutscher (GER) joined Rolf on zero faults and the chance to create a jump-off.

First to enter Ludger Beerbaum (GER) rode a beautiful clear with Olympic horse Casello, but his **four** faults carried through meant he would be unable to progress to the jump off. Jos Verlooy (BEL), Harrie Smolders (NED) and Marcus Ehning (GER) all jumped clear, with Marcus the fastest for the four faulters after an impressive round with Funky Fred.

It would be a **seven** rider jump-off with Rolf and Casall once again in prime position of entering last after another breath-taking display of partnership and trust between horse and rider. Laura Kraut (USA) and her 9 year old grey mare Zeremonie were the first to set the pace, putting in an impressive performance to set the bar at **37.70s** to beat. Janne-Friederike Meyer (GER) and the expressive Goja looked strong but clipped a fence, and Christian Ahlmann (GER) with Taloubet followed suit, both out of the running for a podium. Daniel Dessuer (GER) and First Class van Eeckelghem made some incredible turns, with Daniel manoeuvring the long legged horse beautifully in a turn back to the penultimate vertical. The pair crossed the line in **36.84s**, raising the bar for those to come. Despite their best efforts Simon Delestre (FRA) and Meredith Michaels-Berbaum (GER) couldn't match Daniel's time, settling for **5th** and **3rd** respectively.

The final round, in the final class of what's been a phenomenal show jumping season belonged to Rolf and Casall. Silence fell as the pair entered the ring, watched on by hundreds of thousands all around the world, through GCT TV, international live broadcast and the Tour's own Facebook Live. With the Championship title in the bag, Rolf looked determined to add tonight's Grand Prix to his accolades as he galloped the distances between fences one and two. With every stride the tension grew, with spectators whistling and cheering the formidable combination on at every fence. An incredible 180 degree turn back at the penultimate vertical and perfectly balanced stride saw Rolf and Casall leap slightly ahead, as they stretched for the finish line, crossing it in a brilliant **36.44s**. With the spectators on their feet Rolf raised his hat in the air in celebration to acknowledge their huge support, with an elated Casall bouncing to the cheer of the guests who gave the pair a standing ovation.

It was a fairytale ending for Rolf, and another incredible year for the Longines Global Champions Tour, which has seen the development of show jumping leap forward once again.

Jan Tops, Founder and President of Longines Global Champions Tour: *"I think Rolf really deserves to be champion of the year. Casall and him have been on the podium many times and coming in as a favourite*

*and winning is amazing. He has been close a few years before and really deserves his title. This is not only a beautiful facility but also a horse facility and for the people. Everything you can want is here. The weather is great, the horses like it and they feel loose and they feel good on this fantastic footing. The Tour is really established and with the new League riders are saving their best horses and it has big, big potential."*

Omar Al Mannai, Commercial Manager of AL SHAQAB: *"I really congratulate the riders. Rolf has done a great job all through the Tour and now he has confirmed he is champion. We are very happy to host Global Champions Tour here in Al Shaqab and because of the exposure we get from this event we have reached an agreement with Mr Jan Tops to have an agreement for the coming three years. State-of-the-art facilities like this need to be shown and to have more activities and more events and one of the most amazing events is the Global Champions Tour."*

Rolf-Göran Bengtsson, 2016 LGCT Champion of Champions: *"It was an evening you can dream of, but for it to come true you never think it is possible. My horse Casall ASK is just amazing. Still jumping at 17 years. He likes it and makes everything possible. What he has done for me is amazing. I am really, really happy. If he jumps like this it is hard to stop. We are going to have a discussion in the team but I feel with Casall right now it would be a shame to put him in a box and say it is all over. On the other hand you can't make it better than today. I have a great feeling if we manage we can continue but for how long we have to see."*

Edwina Tops-Alexander, 2016 LGCT Runner Up: *"I am overall very happy. I am disappointed with myself today - I decided to do one less down the line to the double, a little bit off plan, and I paid heavily for it. My horse is in great shape, and was maybe a little bit too fresh. I am here, second for a reason and I didn't deserve to win. Rolf absolutely deserve to win, he's had an amazing year - he saved the horse up especially for this final, which has paid off. He has had an amazing weekend winning the Grand Prix and the overall title today and the Global Champions League team competition."*

Christian Ahlmann, 2016 LGCT Third Place: *"I was really happy with Taloubet, he jumped two great rounds. I was hoping for better than 7th from seven in the jump off but I am really happy I can take my 3rd place (overall). Big congratulations to Edwina and Rolf. I agree 100% he is a really deserved champion this year."*

This article was first published on: [www.globalchampionstour.com](http://www.globalchampionstour.com)  
The final took place in Doha, Qatar, from November 3 - 5  
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Cian O'Connor & Callisto

“LE CAVALIER ET LE CHEF D’EQUIPE FRANCAIS”

# THIERRY POMEL

By Menna Loutfy

HE DEDICATED ALMOST HALF A CENTURY OF HIS LIFE TO THE SPORT OF RIDING, WITH A PASSION THAT NEVER FADED... THIERRY POMEL STARTED HIS RIDING CAREER AS A CLEVER YOUNG STUDENT WHO GREW UP TO BE A GIVING TEACHER. BEING A FORMER WORLD MEDALIST AND THE CURRENT COACH OF THE FRENCH NATIONAL SHOW JUMPING TEAM WHO TRAINS WORLD’S TOP RIDERS, HT WAS EAGER TO MEET THE FRENCH JOCKEY, AND INDEED, WE WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO CATCH UP WITH HIM AND HIS NEWS AND VIEWS.

They say that the decade of the **1960s** was a **golden era** for horse sports; this is probably the time when you started riding. Tell us more about your early involvement in riding and how your family contributed to this.

I was **born in the Equestrian world**. My father was a **riding instructor** but then turned to eventing. I started competing when I was **8**, then I followed the eventing competitions in the junior and youth categories. It was at **23** years that I decided to stop eventing and do just showjumping when I created my own stables.

Being a world-class rider, you participated in a lot of national and international competitions. And as I said earlier that the 1960s was the golden era for horse riding, when was your golden era as a jockey, and what were your greatest achievements?

It was in the world championships in Rome in 1998 when I won a silver medal with the French team and a silver medal in individual competitions. I also won the **CSIO Grand Prix** in La Baule, Rome, Gijon, and the **Rolex GP** in the World Cup of Paris-Bercy.

Spending all these years as a rider and living an athletic life contributes to your personality and gives your life a very interesting rhythm. I expect all of this combined with your love of riding were the reason why you turned to coaching after retirement. So how did you modify your career after having stopped competing?

I came to coaching by following several riders in training and competitions, among others, Kevin Staut in his team debuts in France. For **6** years now, I have been the assistant coach of the French Equestrian Federation.

Currently the French National jumping team is considered one of the top teams in the world, especially after winning the Gold medal in team competitions during the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. Being a trainer for the top level, does that need further development and training?

Of course training at this level is taught in the field and every week-end in competition. We also make sure that we regularly have seminars with coaches from other sports. 





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**Equi•Theme**

The horse day after day

A DAY OF BEAUTY

# THE 6<sup>TH</sup> AHO BREEDERS' EGYPTIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

By HT Staff

SET ON THE EDGE OF THE DESERT UNDER SWAYING PALMS AMIDST BEAUTIFULLY GROOMED GROUNDS, ARENAS AND STABLES, RABAB STUD ONCE AGAIN HOSTED THE ARABIAN HORSE ORGANIZATION'S BREEDERS' EGYPTIAN CHAMPIONSHIP FROM 8 TO 10 DECEMBER WHERE THE BEST OF THE BEST OF HOME-BRED EGYPTIAN ARABIANS WERE ON DISPLAY TO BE TESTED UNDER THE CRITICAL EYES OF EXPERT INTERNATIONAL JUDGES.





More than **50 stud farms and breeders** participated in this very well organized event for the chance to earn the respect of not only their local peers but the entire international Arabian Horse community and to prove the success of their breeding programmes.

The final day was one of those glorious crisp and cool Cairo winter days but the action in the showing ring was hot with each Equine contestant showing fire under the urging of the screams and whips of youth in the stands while the judges glided serenely and silently through the field discretely tabbing in their marks on their palm-held electronic tabulators. Almost immediately following the exit of a contender his results were announced and displayed prominently on an electronic board in every detail for all to see.

The care and attention taken by the show organizers for the comfort of the breeders and spectators attending was flawless with comfortable VIP seating at tables arranged with flowers and with tea and coffee service readily available. The showing arena itself was a garden of beauty.

While many of the scores of the top contenders were almost too close to call, at last the Champions were named. And here are the Champions of the **6th AHO Breeders' Egyptian Championship**.

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- 5th SAFIRA BADRAWI

**Champ.: Senior Mares**

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- 4th TAMEEM AL BAYDAA
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**Champ.: Senior Stallions**

Sponsored by: **Al Rayyan**

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- 3rd SOHAIB AL FARIDA
- 4th AL PASHA OONY
- 5th MARZOUK AL WAFY

*All photos by Claude Stemmelin*



# Straight Egyptian Beauties



Oriente Ameera (Al Adeed Al Shaqab x Ansata Azali), Oriente Lateefah (Farres x Ansata Azali) and Oriente Mabrouka (Ansata Mital x MB Moncena)



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# THE WORLD'S BEST EQUESTRIAN CHRISTMAS PARTY

By Sue Akehurst

ATTENDING OLYMPIA THIS YEAR WAS A SPECTACULAR SPECTACLE. OUTSTANDING EQUESTRIAN DISPLAYS, EVERYTHING FROM THE SHETLAND PONY GRAND NATIONAL RACES, DOGS RIDING ARABIANS, THE PRIDE OF PORTUGAL'S MAGICAL DISPLAY, AND THE HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY. TO WORLD CLASS EQUESTRIAN COMPETITION INCLUDING THE FAMOUS OLYMPIA PUISSANCE, SIX BAR COMPETITION, SHOW JUMPING, EXTREME CARRIAGE DRIVING, DRESSAGE, AND SHOWING. PLUS MANY OTHER COMPETITIONS, DISPLAYS, EXPERIENCES AND EVENTS, TO INCLUDE DOGS JUMPING A COURSE OF FENCES, SANTA CLAUS, CHAMPAGNE ON ICE, DOG AGILITY, A MAGICAL FESTIVE GRAND FINALE AND NOT FORGETTING A GREAT SHOPPING VILLAGE FOR EVERYTHING AND ANYTHING HORSE RELATED AND MORE. BUT PERHAPS MOST SPECIAL OF ALL, WAS THE APPEARANCE FROM ONE OF THE GREATEST DRESSAGE HORSES EVER TO LIVE - VALEGRO AND "THAT" DRESSAGE TEST FROM LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS.



Drummers open the show



Santi Serra



Boyd Exell at the FEI World Cup Driving Leg D&H

## And there we were...

HorseTimes was there in the main arena, and back stage, as all these events got ready to perform in front of thousands of people over the seven days, it truly was an experience for young and old to encourage all walks of life to see what this amazing sport has to offer and how versatile our amazing horses are in all the sports and activities we ask them to participate in with us. Olympia really does show case them all and is a wonderful celebration of all that is "horse".

Along with the wonderful qualifiers for the Longines FEI World Cup Jumping, the FEI World Cup Dressage, and FEI World Cup Driving series were the Mini Major Competition, which pairs up Pony Club Members on 128 cm ponies with Top International Riders. Services jumping championship, champions challenge team relay which saw flat jockeys such as Frankie Dettori, with Coach Nick Skelton jump against jump jockeys such as Harry Skelton with Scott Brash as their coach, a nail biting Six Bar competition, the huge Puisseance wall, and of course the Grand Prix. This is the only sport in the world where men and women compete on an even playing field.

## Pride of Portugal

The "Pride of Portugal" demonstration, was breath taking, showing off the phenomenal skills and agility of the Portuguese Lusitano horse. Originally bred for battle, then the breed was bred for cattle work and bull fighting (though in Portugal bull fights do not involve killing the bull). Due to these roles, the Lusitano horse had to be deft, responsive, and capable of short bursts of speed, combined with tremendous agility. These core skills were show cased in the display. The "vara", the long pole also used in the display, was also used to control the cattlem. Used for its strength, power and majestic movements in order to taunt the bull. Nowadays it is used for demonstrations to show off the classical training of the equestrian art. Piaffe, passage, airs above the ground and lateral work come very easily to this breed.

## Shetland Pony Grand National

The Shetland Pony Grand National is one of the other many highlights of Olympia. During the year the ponies and their young riders have travelled the length and breadth of the country in pursuit of one of the ten prized places at Olympia. The "owners" inspecting their ponies in the paddock area of the arena, have purchased the "ownership" of the ponies for one or more races and the money raised goes to the Bob Champion Cancer Trust. After Bob Champion and Aldaniti won the 1981 Grand National, "racing's greatest fairytale" led to the foundation in 1983 of The Bob Champion Cancer Trust. They support and raise funds for the Bob Champion Cancer Research Laboratory, which forms part of the largest male dedicated research facility in Europe. This year raising £37,500 for the charity.

## Masters of Dressage

Two wonderful dressage masterclasses at Olympia this year, the first from Emile Faurie, whose foundation is the Charity of the Year at Olympia. The Emile Faurie Foundation provides disadvantaged children living in inner cities with the opportunity to ride and have contact with horses.

The second demonstration from Tristan Tucker. Tristan Tucker was born in Cornwall, England and emigrated to Australia as a young boy. He came through the pony club as a novelty, jumping and eventing rider, and moved on to track work with racehorses and driving trotting horses in the sulky. Inspired by Morten Thomsen and his approach to teaching horses, Tristan has developed his own training methods and trains his horses from beginning to Grand Prix dressage, teaches students who are competing at international level and gives demonstrations and clinics around the world about his methods. It was extremely interesting



Holly Smith riding Quality Old Joker GBR



Pride of Portugal



Best of Breed Shetland Brinleyview Cammanche and Georgia James



Native British Show Pony Society Supreme Championship



Carl Hester riding Nip Tuck, winner of the FEI World Cup Dressage Grand Prix Freestyle



A group picture with Valegro



Valegro leaving the arena

to see these methods and the crowd loved them.

#### Emile Faurie

Emile Faurie, born in South Africa, didn't start riding until he was 15, and had his first big break on a horse called Virtu. They won individual bronze and team silver at the 1993 European Championships, and went on to compete at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, competed Rascher Hopes, a 16hh 'pony', at the Sydney Olympics in 2000 and has represented Great Britain at two Olympic Games, three World Equestrian Games and five European Championships. Currently, he is the official team trainer for Finland's Grand Prix riders.

Tom Goode, has been with Emile for 6 years and this year at Olympia was riding Dior III, by Gribaldi out of a Good Times mare owned by Emile and Sam Geddes, bought as a foal, started by Sam, he came to Tom as a four year old. Together they have created a much talked about partnership. Emile focussed his masterclass on how to develop collection, and how to take the right steps to Grand Prix on a young horse. Tom is a particularly sensitive rider which seems to suit Dior well. Tom was 2nd in the inter 1 at the National Championships and again at Hartpury CDI with over 74% on this exceptional young horse.

Emile continued his magical time at Olympia when he showcased the talent of his Grand Prix horse Weekend Fun, who scored an impressive 72.06% on their first outing to Olympia, coming fourth in the FEI World Cup Dressage Grand Prix and 8th in the Kur. The 15 year old gelding has only been with Emile since January this year, but the combination are clearly strong contenders for the World Class Podium programme next year.

Emile commented on the event: *"I'm delighted to have had the opportunity to return to the centre stage at Olympia and feel very privileged to have two amazing horses here who both put on such stellar performances. Of course, it has also been a wonderful chance for us to raise awareness of the importance of the work undertaken*

*by the charity, which celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2016."*

From the six bar to the GP we saw the best of the best, in competition not only equestrianism action in the main arena, every vendor Equine related was present to sell their wares. If you have not yet visited Olympia London International Horse Show, it is most definitely one for you to put in your diaries for 2017!

#### Thank you Valegro

The greatest attraction for me this year, was of course Valegro who retires with his amazing record intact, Olympia hosted an amazing *"THANK YOU VALEGRO"* sell out event over two days during the International horse show.

Charlotte Dujardin OBE, was quick to point out that this is not a retirement from the bright lights entirely, but a retirement from competition, *"He loves performing, he loves coming in front of big crowds. I want to retire him at the top of his game. Now we can take all the pressure off and really enjoy ourselves". Valegro will stay in the public eye for as long as he can, and has already been booked for many demonstrations and appearances around the country and will continue to be an ambassador for dressage worldwide. "He's too fit and well not to be seen"* Carl Hester.

When asked what her favourite moment was, "there are so many favourite moments. I can't say I ever had a ride I've been disappointed with" but went on to say that her 2012 Olympic win in London was her most memorable, "I thank everyone who has supported us through our journey." Carl Hester MBE added that, "It's been one of the best journeys in my life. I've loved every minute of it".

Valegro, a 14-year old Dutch warmblood gelding by Negro x Gerswin, has won every dressage title going, is the world record holder in the Grand Prix, Grand Prix Special and Kur to Music. The double European Champion (2013, 2015), the World Champion (2014) the double Olympic

Champion (2012, 2016), the double winner of the World Cup Finals (2014, 2015). Valegro has always won every class he has been entered in since the Spring of 2012, except for two rides at the 2014 CDIO Aachen (2nd, 6th) and the Grand Prix at the 2016 Olympic Games (2nd). He has also recorded 52 international victories at Grand Prix level between 2011 and 2016. Not bad for a horse no one looked twice at and was not licensed at the KWPN stallion grading in 2005, but Carl spotted him and snapped him up. Valegro's final competition in 2016 at the Rio Olympic games defending his title, scored 93.857%, a new Games record.

*"He is my best friend so not going to the shows with him on the truck is going to be really strange," Alan Davies*

Valegro and Charlotte were awarded with a new trophy from British Dressage, recognising their international success. Designed by Jason Brautigam and the board at British Dressage, the "International Champions of Great Britain" trophy aims to reward those combinations excelling overseas when representing their country at Championship level. It will be presented annually to the highest placed British combination at the respective Championship.

Charlotte has also been awarded the CBE in the Queen's New Year honours list.

Carl Hester MBE was awarded The British Horse Society's highest honour, Honorary Fellowship, joining an elite group of Britain's greatest equestrians. The title of British Horse Society Honorary Fellow is awarded in exceptional circumstances to people who have made an outstanding contribution at the highest level.

Alan Davies, Valegro's groom was awarded The Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by Chris Hewlett, the chairman of the British Grooms Association.

After the awards were bestowed, Valegro's co-owners Anne Barrett and Roly Luard were thanked. Carl and Charlotte then came back into the arena with groom Alan Davies

leading Valegro and they were all interviewed briefly. They spoke most fondly about their life with this special horse, meanwhile Valegro was his normal cheeky self, trying to get his nose on the TV camera, and creating a lighter moment as the crowds were silent with restrained emotion. Valegro, they feel, is looking forward to more grass now he has retired! Charlotte was proud that she was "so far" holding her emotions in check, later back stage she was more emotional but overall the entire team were very upbeat and celebrating this great horse.

#### Valegro from an unknown entity to a world class superstar

*"He owes us nothing, he is loved by everybody here, he is loved by everybody in British dressage ... it is just so touching that he will be retired here and loved by all of us."* Carl Hester

The best moment of Olympia this year for me was watching a repeat performance of the amazing, gold medal winning, 2012 London Olympics FEI World Cup™ Dressage Freestyle to Music, which wowed the entire crowd, and was breath taking to watch first hand. Many believe it would have scored even higher this time, if it had been judged, than when we saw it in 2012! Whilst the two days were incredibly emotional they were also wonderful to be a part of and to celebrate this amazing team's achievements.

Charlotte mounted the horse again for his final rounds of one tempi changes, passage and piaffe pirouettes to Andrea Bocelli's 'Con Te Partiro' as the audience paid their respects in the only way they could. They stood and gave a well-deserved standing ovation, louder than I have ever heard. Charlotte and Valegro walked out of the Olympia arena on a long rein, Valegro as relaxed as ever, and not a dry eye in the house as this record breaking partnership left the arena for the final time as Valegro retired from his competition career. 🐾

*All photos by Kit Houghton*

*For the full results check [www.horsetimesegypt.com](http://www.horsetimesegypt.com)*

# 60 SECONDS WITH KARIM HABASHI

COUNTRY: EGYPT

DATE OF BIRTH: 21/04/1965

STAR SIGN: TAURUS

PROFESSION: FORMER TOURISM PROFESSIONAL AND SHOW JUMPER



## Tell us about yourself?

**My parents** put me on a horse when I was 5 and it was love and addiction at first sight. Thanks to both riding and my job, I was lucky to travel to many countries. I trained a lot with **Paul Darragh** and **Alain Storme** in Ireland, **Samir Mahmoud** in Egypt and more recently **Karim El Zoghby** in Holland. I also had very inspiring lessons with other top riders like Rob Ehrens, Eric Navet, and Markus Fuchs. Then, having enough time for riding and work and other commitments was always a bit of a challenge. Giving more time to riding lately made me realise it's never too late to learn with horses.

## Describe your typical practice?

**80%** is flat work; a horse doesn't need to jump more than twice a week. Your goal is to get your horse to obey to all possible variations you will need in the ring. If your horse is not happy and relaxed at the end of your session then you have achieved nothing.

## Where is your favourite place for practice?

**Waterside Stud in Ireland;** a choice of indoor and outdoor arenas, a track around the whole place, all very green and quiet, horse and rider's heaven! It is quite boring for the horse and the rider to train every day in the same place. A nice facility is one that has different arenas and access to a forest or a track.

## Tell us one or two things in your training that contributed to your success.

Adapting your training to the horse is very important. While it is important to have a basic system, you have to be able to identify every horse's peculiarities. Every horse is different with strengths and weaknesses; you definitely have to use the strengths, without abusing them. As for the weaknesses, you definitely need to work on them but eventually you will also need to adapt or compromise a bit. You can impose yourself on a horse to a limit but you cannot be rigid. **Being your own harshest critic will also push you further.**

## What was the best advice you were given?

That a horse has to like you and be

relaxed to jump for you and achieve success. Any other formula produces short-lived results, if any.

## What advice would you give to young athletes?

**Respect the horse.** If you don't really love horses, don't ride them! More flat work, less jumping. Work on having a correct position, independence of aids (their trainers might need to explain that to them) before trying to go full speed to win a class. Then another very important rule: blame yourself before the horse! Find one good trainer and listen to him; don't go around asking 20 people what they think of your round!

## What is your best achievement?

The Grand Prix in Jardy in 2013. Winning in Europe is not easy; it was also a new horse and it was fast and exciting.

## What are the goals that you aspire to achieve?

Having a good base in Europe to produce quality young horses as well as continuing to compete at 2\* and 3\* level.

## Who has been your greatest support?

My parents for all sorts of support and putting up with this horse addiction. Alain Storme in Ireland for advice and guidance throughout my riding career and till today.

## What are your greatest motivations?

Just the thrill of being around horses and working with them. Then winning, of course!

## Who is your sporting hero?

**Marcus Ehning** for making it look ridiculously easy. **Roger Yves-Bost** for his unbelievable competitiveness. **Cian O'Connor** for being both a top rider and an incredible businessman.

## What is your second favourite sport?

Football, only watching it though!

## What is your favourite genre of movies?

Thrillers.

## What kind of music do you enjoy listening to?

Pop Rock; I grew up listening to bands like Dire Straits, Chris Rea, and Fleetwood Mac. Nowadays, Coldplay, good Pop, some lounge music.

## What is your favourite book and who is your favourite author?

Besides books relevant to my Political Science studies, I spent time reading books about horses and jumping. Most inspiring was Jean D'Orgeix, definitely a revolutionary in his techniques at the time.

## What is your favourite food?

Japanese, Thai, Lebanese.

## What is the most memorable place you ever visited?

Rio de Janeiro, a stunning city, and Seoul, so different.

## What is your strength and what is your weakness?

**My strength?** Believing that you never stop learning with horses and not being embarrassed about saying so. As for the **weakness**, I would have liked to have more patience with people. Being a perfectionist can sometimes also work against you.

## What is the biggest challenge you have ever faced?

Trying to juggle between riding and having another job.

## What is the biggest reward you ever got?

Listening to your **National Anthem** when you win a class.

## If you had the power to change something in this world, what would you change?

A 48 hour day, having double the time

## If there is something about yourself that you would like to change, what would that be?

A bit more concentration in the ring. 🐾



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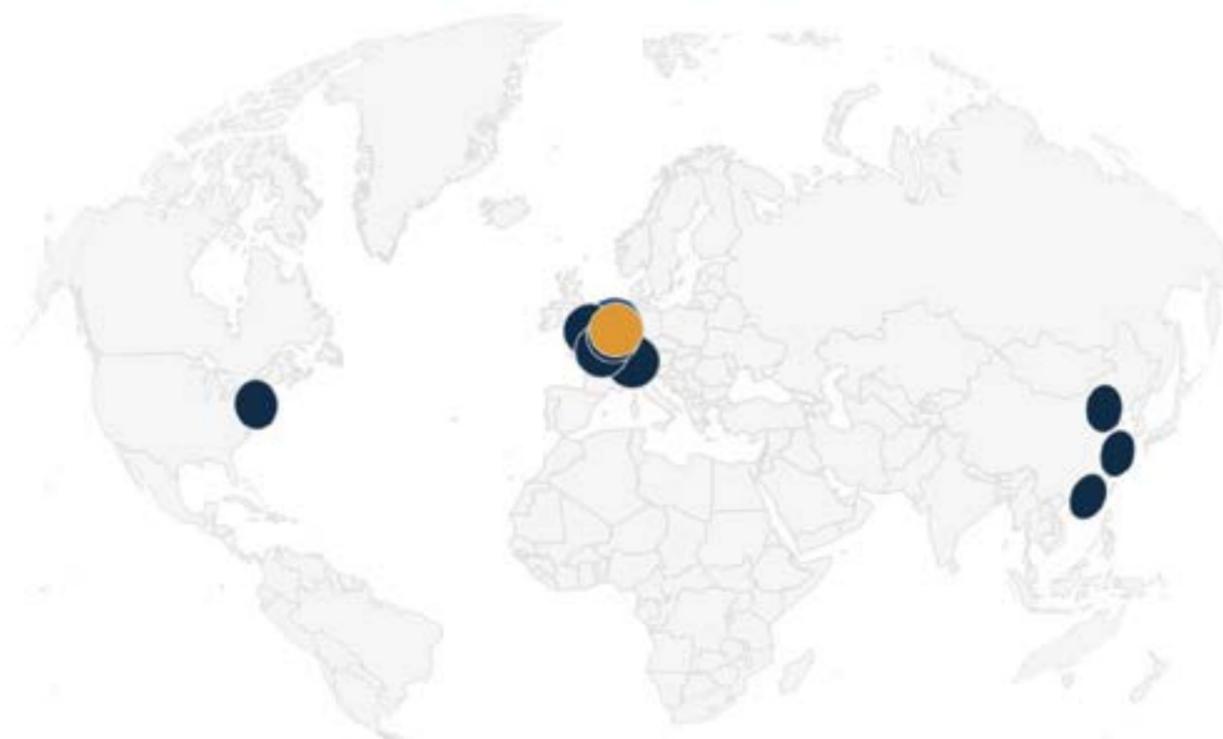
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## TRAINING TIPS

# STRATEGY BEFORE THE COURSE: DISTANCE

By Khaled Assem

THE EQUESTRIAN SHOW JUMPING SPORT IS MORE OF AN ART THAN A SCIENCE, AS IT NEEDS PURE INTELLECTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF DETAILS COMBINED WITH A FEEL FOR SPACE AND DISTANCE IN ORDER TO SUCCEED. IT INCLUDES INTEGRATING VARIOUS CONCEPTS TOGETHER. ONE OF THOSE CONCEPTS IS THE UNDERSTANDING OF DISTANCES WHILE WALKING THE COURSE.

Distances between fences are designed to allow the rider to ride a smooth course with plenty of harmony as he accommodates long and short distance demands.

Distances within doubles with different types of fences at the inlet and outlet require different takeoff points and accordingly the landing points need a lot of thought from the rider to plan his strategy well before riding the course.

The tables given on the right include some guidance to distances that are useful for the general understanding of how to plan your strategy.

### COMPETITION DISTANCES

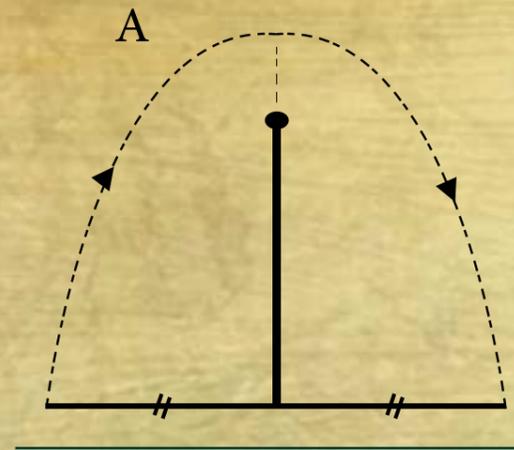
The chart below shows the distances used between particular fences in normal conditions. all distances can be plus or minus 15 cm (6 in ). horses tend to stand off (take-off early) to oxers and run deep (take-off close) to verticals, which is why the difference in distances is not greater. young horses and novice riders should not attempt doubles or combinations with two consecutive oxers or an oxer at the end because, for safety's sake there should be room for error. for the same reason, triple bars should be used only as the first fence in a double or combination.

FIRST FENCE	SECOND FENCE	DISTANCE IN BETWEEN
VERTICAL	VERTICAL	7.9 m (26 ft)
VERTICAL	OXER	7.6m (25 ft)
VERTICAL	ASCENDING OXER	7.45 m (24 ft 6 in)
OXER	VERTICAL	7.75 m (25 ft 6 in)
OXER	OXER	7.45 m (24 ft 6 in)
OXER	ASCENDING OXER	7.3 m (24 ft)
ASCENDING OXER	VERTICAL	7.9 m (26 ft)
ASCENDING OXER	OXER	7.6 m (25 ft)
ASCENDING OXER	ASCENDING OXER	7.45 m (24 ft 6 in)
TRIPLE BAR	VERTICAL	8.05 m (26 ft 6 in)
TRIPLE BAR	OXER	7.75 m (25 ft 6 in)
TRIPLE BAR	ASCENDING OXER	7.6 m (25 ft)

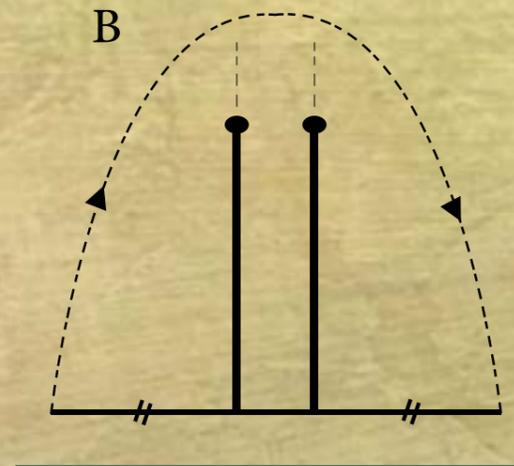


Ireland's Denis Lynch & All Stars at the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2014 in Normandy

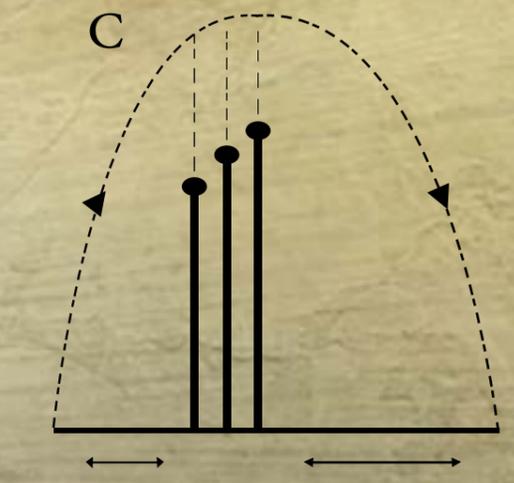
A- Takeoff point is further away from the vertical as there is no width to cross; takeoff distance is equivalent to landing distance.



B- Takeoff point is closer to the parallel oxer as there is width to cross; takeoff distance is equivalent to landing distance



C- Takeoff to a triple bar is very close as the highest point in the parabola is above the third element and accordingly the landing distance is further away.



These diagrams show how important it is to identify the distance in a double combination according to the types of the first element as well as the second element.

With time and practice these learned distances and guidelines should become more and more instinctive and natural to the rider leading to a more controlled, comfortable and successful round.

*About the author:*

*Eng. Khaled Assem is a certified Level 3 FEI trainer. He has been training for over 20 years, competing internationally for 10 years and locally for 25 years.*

# HORSETIMES

THE LEADING EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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# TIPS FOR EQUESTRIAN CONTRACTS

# WRITE IT DOWN!

By European US Asian Equine Lawyers

IN THIS ISSUE OF HORSETIMES, EUROPEAN US ASIAN EQUINE LAWYERS (EEL) DISCUSSES SOME PRACTICAL TIPS THAT MAY PROVE TO BE USEFUL FOR HORSE OWNERS WHEN ENTERING INTO AN AGREEMENT OR DURING THE CONTRACTUAL RELATION WITH THE TRAINER, THE RIDER, AND/OR THE SELLER OF A HORSE IN EUROPE. WE COMPILED THESE TIPS BASED ON SEVERAL CASES WE HAVE RECENTLY HANDLED AND/OR REVIEWED IN THIS CONTEXT.



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## Introduction

As lawyers, we often have clients come to us with a dispute that they would like to be resolved immediately. In the Equine business where a lot of agreements are concluded verbally, this is easier said than done. When things go wrong during the term of the agreement clients do not want long legal battles; they prefer to obtain rather fast decisions. **'Fast and pragmatic solutions'** is frequently the clients' mantra. Lawyers have the same objective. In the end every lawyer wants his clients to be satisfied, especially in the Equine business where agreements involve living animals like horses. **Nobody wins in a long lasting legal battle.** The tips we are giving in this article can significantly improve and safeguard your position in the event that things go wrong with, for instance, your trainer or your rider, and might be of enormous help to your lawyers in the event that you have to go to the Court.

## Waiting for the decision

If the parties cannot resolve the dispute without court intervention, then the relative position of the parties remains the same until a court can decide the case on the merits. It may sound very unjust to some clients, but unfortunately this is the legal framework Equine lawyers operate in. Equine law is a part of private law and, unfortunately, there are no separate proceedings regarding horses unless parties agree to arbitration where a fast decision is possible. Additionally, horses involve a lot of emotions and horse cases can be compared with divorce proceedings. All this can take very long and in some cases may get very expensive. Most of the **European legal systems** provide for instruments for obtaining fast decisions like injunction orders (for instance the so-called short law suit in the Netherlands "kort geding" etc.). In these proceedings, the evidence presented by the parties is vitally important for the judge to give a decision. As parties wish a fast decision, there is no time for the judge to do the fact finding. The judge must be sure he is granting a preliminary decision that shall be upheld in the appeal or in the main proceedings. Parties need also to demonstrate the urgency for injunction. In horse cases involving living animals this is not problematic.

## Importance of evidence and simple choices to be made

Many times we advise our client to use written contracts. We do, however, understand that a lot of dealings in the business are concluded verbally. Understanding this, we recommend our clients to at least confirm in writing the essentials of the agreement they have concluded.

## Ensuring the identity of the contracting parties

It is always very important to **clarify in writing the identity of the contracting parties** and their capacity. It seems self-evident but still it can go wrong quite frequently. We would like to illustrate the relevance of recording the identity of the parties and their capacity in the agreement with an example of a real legal case.

EEL recently represented in court a famous Polish breeder who brought his horse (Polish Warmblood mare) to the Netherlands to train it and to have it competing in the showjumping competitions here. As the Polish breeder did not speak Dutch, he was assisted by a friend of his, a Dutch citizen living in Poland, also dealing in horses. This man represented him later in the contacts with the trainer. As the Polish breeder did not have a Euro bank account in Poland he asked another friend who had an account to pay the training and stabling fees per month to the stable. The payment transfers included only the name of the horse. Only later, when things started to go wrong the friend of the breeder included the name of the breeder on the transfer with the addition "owner".

The Polish breeder had a lot of bad luck as the trainer with the son of a Dutch friend who acted as intermediary refused to give him the horse back. The son and the father were quarrelling for years after the divorce of the father (Dutch intermediary) from the mother. The trainer and the son saw the qualities of the mare, an excellent showjumper. They came up with an idea that the son of the friend (Dutch intermediary) would have been given the horse by his father. Interestingly, the Dutch intermediary (the father) has denied the gift (to the son) and he had at no point in time been the owner of the horse in Poland. The studbook and the breeders association confirmed

that the Polish breeder and not the Dutch intermediary was the sole owner in accordance with Polish law.

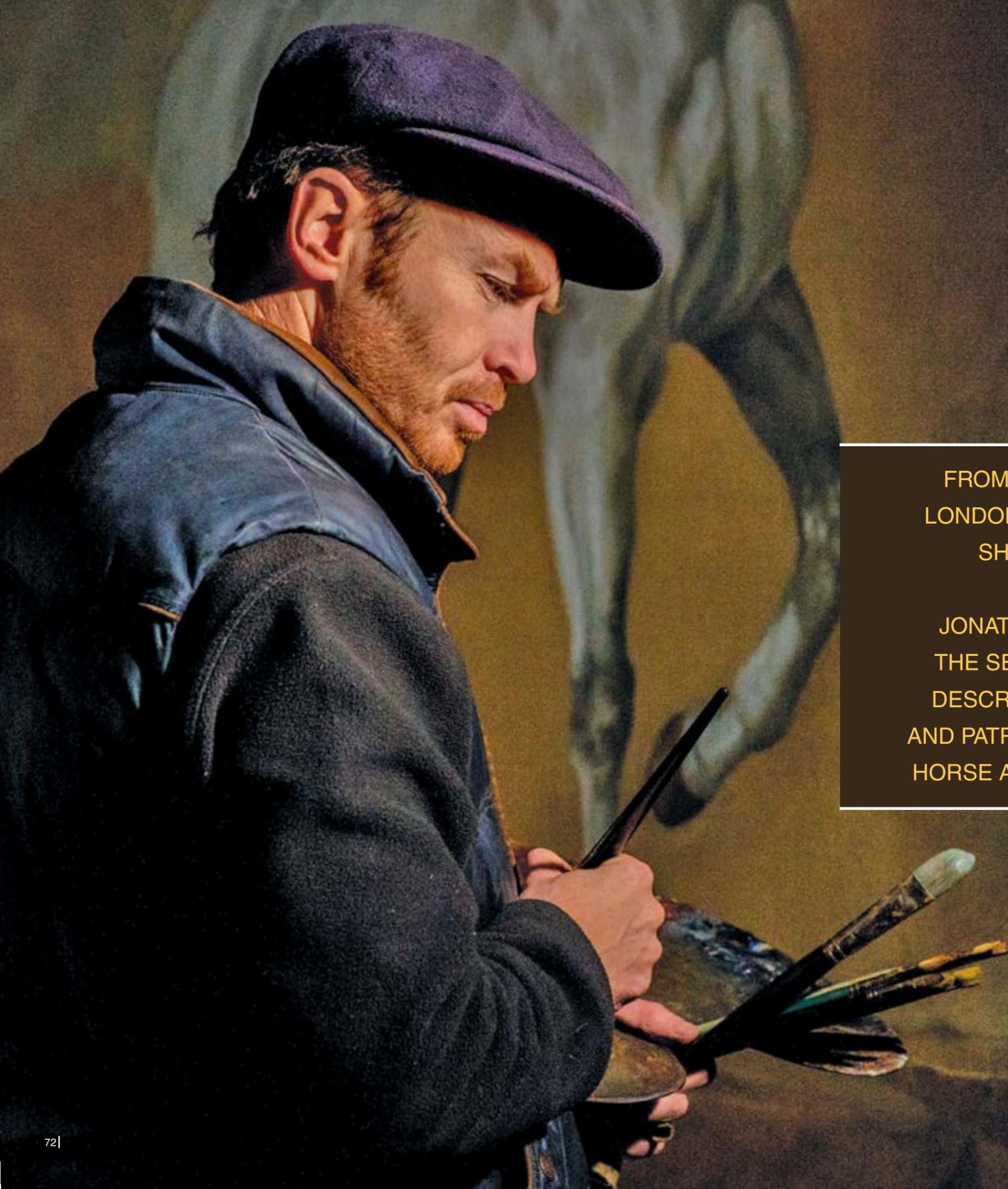
Additionally, the gift in Poland would have had to be formalized in the form of a notarial deed and, obviously, this was never accomplished. Despite all this, the Dutch court denied the request for an injunction of the Polish breeder. Losing the injunction proceedings though does not mean that the Polish breeder lost in the end. **Thanks to EEL**, the Polish public prosecutor started an investigation into the matter and against the Dutch trainer and his friend and decided to charge them with fraud. If sentenced by the criminal court in Poland, the Dutch trainer and his friend will face their liability for the financial loss of the Polish breeder. The only downside in this case is that the Polish breeder will not have the mare back as he does not want to wait for the result of the main proceedings in the Netherlands. When a final decision would come, then the horse will be already much older and in terms of value much less valuable (above fourteen years old).

**An important lesson** to learn here is that all this trouble might have been avoided if there was any kind of **written evidence** that it was obvious to the Dutch trainer that the Polish breeder was the owner of the horse. He should have had a written contract with the trainer regarding the terms and conditions of the training and stabling or at least confirmed in writing who was the owner of the mare and who would pay the bills on his behalf. <sup>(1)</sup>



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# EQUESTRIAN ART JAMES GILLICK (PART 2)

By James Gillick

FROM 7TH– 28TH JUNE, 2016 SLADMORE CONTEMPORARY IN LONDON, RENOWNED WORLDWIDE FOR ITS ANIMAL BRONZES, SHOWED TWENTY FIVE OF JAMES GILLICK'S EQUESTRIAN PAINTINGS AND SKETCHES, A SHARED PROJECT WITH JONATHAN COOPER, JAMES' DEALER FOR SIXTEEN YEARS. IN THE SECOND CONVERSATION IN OUR SERIES, JAMES GILLICK DESCRIBES HOW HE WORKED CLOSELY WITH HORSE PEOPLE AND PATRONS TO ACHIEVE HIS GOAL OF PAINTING THE ARABIAN HORSE AS A TRUE EMBLEM OF ARAB CULTURE AND TRADITION.





As I spent more time studying the horses I could see that they are a mirror of their culture. The Arabian horses have also taught me a lot about horses generally. **Working with all three types of horse**, what was very obvious was that horses connect hugely. As humans we prize language and we suppose that since animals can't speak they can't communicate, but that is not true at all. All animals connect through sound and smell and body movement. **There is nothing a horse can't say that it needs to say.** But humans find it very difficult to connect, even though we have the power of speech. Certainly these Arabian horses spoke very clearly to me.

I went from stud yard to stud yard with some wonderful clients, which has enabled me to get so closely involved with the horses and their owners. I particularly admire **the connosseurship of Mohammed Jassim Al-Marzouk**, of **Ajmal Arabian Stud**. Artists have always needed good patrons. Art needs people prepared to support it, and value the skill that they are promoting. In return, as the artist, part of my role is to make an effort to make my painting distinguished. I see the patron and the artist as a team to make great art and to make desirable art. We have to cooperate to produce this.

Particularly in my work for this exhibition, this has become a priority. I admire the efforts being made to establish the **Arabian horse as a national emblem**. I am interested in the horses as an icon, something which defines what people are about. I don't think we in the West are really understanding the situation in the Middle East at present. So I wanted to create an iconic image. With the painting, *Brave Stallion*, that was a deliberate metaphor for the **Middle East**. The rocks I referenced from a quarry and the cliffs are in Kuwait, and the sand storm is rolling up behind. And there is the brave Arabian stallion trapped in this very difficult precarious position, but he isn't giving up. 🐾

*“I think this real affection in each family and tribe is reflected by the way their horses behave. I wanted to show the Arab people through their horses.”*

Meeting all the people who work with Arabian horses at every level: from the stud grooms, to the breeders and owners, has given me such an insight into **the Arabian horse**, and equally importantly, the world it lives in. Unlike the methods with Thoroughbreds in Britain, Europe and the United States, I have discovered that Arabian horses in their studs usually live in familial groups. The stallions are in close proximity to the mares. I have been very impressed by this, and I get the idea that the horses are much more relaxed and less lonely as a result.

In the West people tend to be rather frightened of the famous Thoroughbred racehorse

stallions, so I think there is a lot to be learnt. I have tried to convey my ideas about this in **my exhibition** by throwing together images of horses from the different breeds and showing them as they are. I feel it is a brave move, but I want to say: **“Behold the Horse.”**

The Arabian horse communicates beautifully with other horses, and in my art I wanted to capture these strong familial bonds between the horses, because that was what I found among the people as well. I think this real affection in each family and tribe is reflected by the way their horses behave. I wanted to show the Arab

peoples through their horses. Each different culture in the world develops the type of horse that encapsulates what the people value. So for me, it is a wonderful opportunity to try to enter the mind-set of the people of the Middle East and to show their dignity. **For example, the white stallion that I have painted is standing on a precipice in front of a sand storm.** The horse has nowhere to go, yet he is calmly not shifting and he is being brave and he understands his responsibilities. This attitude, which I think is mutual between the horses and the people, has been one of the chief things I wanted to depict in this exhibition.





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## THE ART OF CLASSICAL DRESSAGE RIDING

# THE TROT

Compiled by Emmad Eldin Zaghloul



THE TROT DEFINED A “TWO BEAT” GAIT WHERE DIAGONAL LEG PAIRS MOVE SIMULTANEOUSLY FOLLOWED BY A MOMENT OF SUSPENSION. THERE ARE FOUR MAIN TYPES OF TROT: THE WORKING TROT, THE MEDIUM TROT, THE EXTENDED TROT, AND THE COLLECTED TROT.

### HOW TO EXECUTE THE TROT:

Start in the walk, tighten abdominals and deepen the seat, keep upper body straight, close both calves on the horse's side, maintain rein contact but yield slightly and finally relax seat and calves.

### NOTES:

There are 2 ways for the rider to ride the trot - rising or sitting.

The rising trot is performed when the rider rises and falls in time with the horse's legs. The rider rises when the outside front foot is forward and sits when the outside front foot is back. **“Rise and fall with the leg on the wall”** is an easy way to remember when to rise and when to sit.

The sitting trot is often difficult to master because the horse's trot is generally bouncy. When sitting the trot, the rider remains in the seated position throughout. It is imperative for the rider to relax and allow the seat and hips absorb the concussion of the horse's hooves.

### PURPOSE OF THE TROT

To develop stamina, muscle strength and rhythm.

To warm up the horse's muscles prior to exertion.

### COMMON ERRORS IN EXECUTION

The horse loses rhythm.

The rider restricts the horse's movement with a rigid hand.

The rider posts on the incorrect diagonal in the rising trot.

The rider creates tension in the horse's back by sitting too hard in the rising trot.

The horse lacks energy.

The horse's step is more vertical in nature illustrating tension in the back and neck.

The rider becomes tense in the sitting trot consequently bouncing and making the horse tense.

### FREEDOM AND REGULARITY OF THE TROT

1. The trot is a pace of 'two-time' on alternate diagonal legs (near left fore and right hind leg and vice versa) separated by a moment of suspension.

2. The trot, always with free, active, and regular steps, should be moved into without hesitation.

3. The quality of the trot is judged by the general impression, the regularity and elasticity of the steps—originated from a supple back and well engaged hindquarters—and by the ability of maintaining the same rhythm and natural balance even after a transition from one trot to another.

4. The following trots are recognised: working trot, collected trot, medium trot and extended trot. (Classical dressage also recognises the school trot. It is the ultimate in collection and the precursor to a good passage and great piaffe passage.)

4.1 Collected Trot. The horse remaining on the bit moves forward with his neck raised and arched. The hocks being well engaged maintain an energetic impulsion thus enabling the shoulders to move with greater ease in any direction. The horse's steps are shorter than in the other trots but he is lighter and more mobile.

4.2 Working Trot. This is a pace between the collected and the medium trot in which a horse not

yet trained and ready for collected movements shows himself properly balanced and, remaining on the bit, goes forward with even, elastic steps and good hock action. The expression 'good hock action' does not mean that collection is a required quality of working trot. It only underlines the importance of an impulsion originated from the activity of the hindquarters.

4.3 Medium Trot. This is a pace between the working and the extended trot but more 'round' than the latter. The horse goes forward with clear and moderately lengthened steps and with an obvious impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse remaining on the bit to carry his head a little more in front of the vertical than at the collected and the working trot and allows him at the same time to lower his head and neck slightly. The steps should be even and the whole movement balanced and unconstrained.

4.4 Extended Trot. The horse covers as much ground as possible. Maintaining the same cadence he lengthens his steps to the utmost as a result of great impulsion from the hindquarters. The rider allows the horse remaining on the bit without leaning on it to lengthen his frame and to gain ground. The forefeet should touch the ground on the spot towards which they are pointing. The movement of the fore and hind legs should be similar (parallel) in the forward movement of the extension. The whole movement should be well balanced and the transition to collected trot should be smoothly executed by taking more weight on the hindquarters. 

Source of the article

Classical Dressage

Dressage Academy

## ORIENTALISM AND THE ARABIAN HORSE: PART 3

# VICTOR ADAM

By Judith Wich-Wenning

THE ARABIAN HORSE WAS – AND STILL IS – A POPULAR SUBJECT FOR ARTISTS. ONE OF THE TRUE MASTERS IN THIS FIELD WAS THE FRENCH VICTOR ADAM. HE DEVELOPED EXCELLENCE IN IMMORTALIZING THE BEAUTY OF THE ARABIAN HORSE ON PAPER. UP TO THIS DAY, HE IS RANKING AS ONE OF THE VERY BEST ARTISTS IN THIS BRANCH.

Victor Adam was born in Paris in the year **1801**. Bearing the same family name as the German artist Albrecht Adam was by the way just a coincidence – the two were not related. Victor Adam was the son of the esteemed engraver Jean Adam, who gave him his first drawing lessons. Already at the **age of 13**, Victor Adam entered the French academy “*École des Beaux Arts*”. Here he studied for four years. At the same time, Victor Adam learned also in the ateliers of Meynier and Régnault.

In the 19th century the **Salon in Paris** played a very important role.

It was the official art exhibition of the *Académie des Beaux-Arts*. The Salons took place annually or biannually and were the greatest art events in the Western world. Showing at the Salon in Paris was essential for any artist to become successful. A critical jury often rejected works so that they could not be exhibited, or – in the best case – awarded prizes to the artists. Printed catalogues of the Salons are today important documents for art historians.

Of course Victor Adam was excited about showing his work at the famous Salons.

When Victor Adam was **18 years** old, he debuted in public at the Salon with his work. His historic painting was very well received - a great start for the young artist! In **1819** he exhibited “*Herminia succouring Tancred*”. Almost immediately afterwards, he received the commission to paint various subjects for the Museum at Versailles. In the following years, he regularly showed his paintings at the Salons. His great artistic talent and especially his unusual gift for drawing met much recognition from the public. At the Paris Salons, he was awarded a gold medal in **1824** and a



One of the very classic, refined pictures by Victor Adam: “Grey Stallion”, owned by Judith Wich-Wenning

second-class medal in **1836**. Later on, he received several more from Lille, Douai and other cities. After exhibiting numerous important paintings, he retired from publicity in 1838. When he started to show again his work in 1846, he restricted himself to lithography. Victor Adam proved to be an expert in this branch of art. Victor Adam left a huge opus of almost 8000 prints. Despite his impressive paintings, his works in oil and in chalk, Victor Adam is first of all known through his fantastic lithographs.

Victor Adam left us impressive

hunting and battle scenes. He was very passionate about Arabian horses and loved to depict them again and again. His lithographs of Arabians are treasures. They are easily recognizable: Victor Adam drew the Arabian in a delicate and sensitive style. Some lithographs seem almost fragile in a very positive way. Victor Adam's Arabians are very noble, with small, beautiful heads and huge, well-rounded, often fiery eyes. They are extremely typey horses and have rounded bodies with strong, but elegant legs. Exotic, charismatic Arabians were Victor Adam's favourites. They appear

light-footed, moving effortless over the ground.

Victor Adam depicted European noblemen and generals riding Arabians. He was an avid follower of **Napoleon Bonaparte**, immortalizing him in numerous pictures. Victor Adam's portraits show Napoleon with his favourite Arabian stallion, as well as European kings and queens with their steeds. His works comprise also unique pictures of Spahis or of Islamic leaders, as for example **Mohammed Ali** – the Viceroy of Egypt – or **Abd el Kader** on their noble Arabian horses.



Original 19th century lithograph by Victor Adam: "The Arabian Horse", from the collection of Judith Wich-Wenning

*“Victor Adam’s bequest is a treasure, an unsurpassable tribute to the Arabian horse. His lithographs, drawings and paintings of Arabians are today the gems of private and public collections worldwide.”*

Some of Victor Adam’s most beautiful lithographs show Arabian horses in their natural environment. The pale background often strongly reminds us of the bright, light colours of the desert. A beautifully drawn framework enhances a number of Victor Adam’s pictures, consisting of **Oriental accessories** like “Khanjars” (i.e. Arabian daggers) or “Djerids” (i.e. spears). Occasionally, Victor Adam

signed his paintings just with his monogram “V.A.” or they were not signed at all.

**After a very prolific life**, Victor Adam **died** at Viroflay, a small village close to Versailles, in 1867. Victor Adam’s bequest is a treasure, an unsurpassable tribute to the Arabian horse. His lithographs, drawings and paintings of Arabians are today the gems of private and public

collections worldwide.

When we marvel at old Arabian horse pictures today, we should briefly think of the brilliant artists who left us this source of inspiration. They were thrilled by the same passion as we are today: The beauty and spirit of the Arabian horse! 

*All photos by Judith Wich-Wenning*



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SIHAM MOHARRAM'S  
EXHIBITION AT CAIRO OPERA HOUSE

# A TOUCH OF ART

By Aya Amr

'HORSES AND LIFE PERCEPTIONS' WAS THE TITLE OF THE EXHIBITION OF THE EGYPTIAN PROFESSIONAL WOOD BURNING ARTIST SIHAM MOHARRAM, WHICH WAS SHOWCASED AT THE ZEYAD BAKIR HALL IN CAIRO OPERA HOUSE THIS PAST OCTOBER. THE EXHIBITION ACTED AS THE MEETING POINT FOR MANY RENOWNED ARTISTS AND ART ENTHUSIASTS IN EGYPT.





Madam Siham has been painting since 1959. Her very meticulous touch and passion for the art has led to the development of an impressive oeuvre of more than 60 paintings.

After the exhibition, Siham Moharram received an award of appreciation from the Minister of Culture, Helmy Namnam, for the Historical religious complex in Egypt مجمع الأديان painting.

Siham felt very flattered to be honoured among Egypt's art celebrities: "I felt that my achievement and persistence in art payed off", she said. "I am very happy that at this age I didn't give up; painting gives me self-satisfaction and I don't feel whole without painting." She added, "Painting is my getaway from life, it freezes my mind as if I'm in another world".

Cairo Opera House, part of Cairo's National Cultural Center, is the main performing arts venue in the Egyptian capital. Home to most of Egypt's finest musical groups, it is located on the southern portion of Gezira Island in the Nile River, in the Zamalek district west of and near downtown Cairo. HTHac re, parentem potis; estandine fur, oponeni hilles! Abempecis, sim ad nius consulut porehendacia ina, silicesil ut idemnimil casta. 

Photos from the exhibition by Mohamed kormed  
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