



Presidential Guard Equestre Club

Dated back to as early as 1912, the Presidential Guard Equestrian Force played an important role in the King's daily life. They acted as the King's main protection, leading and following him on horseback to secure his way. This eventually changed with time, and soon evolved the development of the motorcade, thus decreasing the need for the King's horses and men. This led to the Presidential Guards only appearing scarcely, in national ceremonies or in special shows where the riders and horses demonstrated their skills by performing the "Kalla" game, show jumping or dressage. Meanwhile, Presidential Guard riders did compete

in national competitions, with General Abdel Karim Sadek and General Yousef Abou Gazia as the most prominent riders of the time. This ended however, in 1972 and Presidential Guard riders went back to appearing only in ceremonies or special performances.

After 15 years of absence, Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Moselhi made a comeback competing in national competitions from 1987 continuously to 1992, thus reviving the Presidential Guard Equestrian activities. However due to work conditions, Lieu. Col. Moselhi left the Presidential Guards by the end of 1992, and it was not until late 1996 that he once again joined the Presidential Guard Equestrian team. By that time, the number of riders representing the Presidential Guards totaled 6 led by Lieu. Col. Moselhi himself. Before leaving the Presidential Guards in 1992, Lieu. Col. Moselhi opened the first riding school, solely for the children of the Presidential Guards. It was renewed several times, first in 1994 and further again in 1995, but it was not until late 1997, after Lieu. Col. Moselhi's return that vast changes were made.

The place became known as "Presidential Guard Equestre Club" and was officially opened for public admission on 14 December 1997, but with certain membership rules. A board of directors, led by Chief of Presidential Guards Horses, General Mahmoud Khalaf and managed by Lieu. Col. Moselhi run the club. The club is fully equipped with all the necessary equestrian needs, most supplies being shipped in from abroad. To meet the demands of the 50 horses and 10 ponies, there are three working paddocks (2 sand and one grass), a complete tack room, 2 walkers and 2 transportation cars. Lighting and sound systems are set up around the working arenas as well as an equestrian clothing store. The list is endless. Future plans include building a 30 x 60m indoor arena, supplying the library with most updated equestrian books and videos, installing the computer billboard system for use in future competitions and hopefully hosting an international competition next year.

The Presidential Guard Equestre Club has come a long way, developing and undergoing many changes along the way. Its distinguished image today is considered as most honorable and presentable amongst equestrian standards in Egypt.



Lieutenant Colonel Moselhi riding Shorouk

An Arabian Affair



Al Badeia Arabian Horse Farm is considered to be the oldest private breeding farm in Egypt. Located in Tere'et El Mansoureyia in Giza, the farm has specialized in breeding pure blood Arabians since it opened in 1935. "We breed according to the horses type and quality", states Nasr Marei, the managing owner. Marei does much more than just run the farm. He is an active member of the Egyptian Arabian Horse Breeders Association (EAHBA), and helps organize local shows as well as participate in them. "It's been 10 years today since I started introducing my horses to local shows," states Marei, "and the overall results are very honorable, a reassurance that I'm on the right track."

On March 13-14 1998, Sakkara Country Club hosted the Tenth Annual Show for the EAHBA. 120 horses participated representing around 15 breeders. All horses were divided into 16 different classes according to age and sex to be further judged. Marei himself, participated with 14 of his horses. "This is the 4th time in a row to win 1st place as far as number of classes and championships are concerned" says Marei proudly. 13 year old stallion Farid Al Badeia (shown left), was a favorite among the judges. Having won 4 consecutive shows in a row, his offspring too have had their share of success in the show ring.

On training a horse for showing, Marei advises to begin at least three months prior to the event. "The horse has to be disciplined enough to obey the orders inside the ring, stand squarely, move gracefully etc." he adds. Marei always supervises the training of all his horses himself to ensure that they are well schooled.

However, his search for the perfect horse continues. "Dealing with Arabian horses brings me a lot of satisfaction," expresses Marei, "and I would not like to have done otherwise."