

RAMY ISKANDAR

# A CLUB'S HERITAGE

By Nada H. Abdelmoniem



© Ahmed Shawkat



© Ahmed Shawkat

▲ *Ramy & the love of his life, Josiane, at the Ferosia Riding Club in Zamalek*

RAMY ISKANDAR AL RAHEB HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE FEROSIA RIDING CLUB IN ZAMALEK SINCE 1974. HE STARTED TO RIDE AT THE AGE OF EIGHT, AND FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, HIS FAMILY HAS FOLLOWED HIS FOOTSTEPS. HIS WIFE JOSIANE, SON FARID, AND DAUGHTER CARLA ALL SHARE THE SAME PASSION AT

THE CLUB; JOSIANE IS ONE OF THE FEW CONSISTENT FEMALE SHOW JUMPERS WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE SPORT AND FARID ALONG WITH CARLA ARE CURRENTLY PART OF THE YOUNG JUNIOR TEAM.

In 2005, Ramy was appointed as a board member in the club and ever since has been occupied with plenty of technical and administrative details. In the next few lines, we

will hear him tell us about his achievements at the club as well as the challenges he faces within.

**How do you see the Ferosia club from your perspective?**

The club has around 500 members. For the past 38 years, Gen. Elwy Ghazy was the main figure on all of the different boards elected for the club – which explains why it is more like a family than anything else. You must understand that we all grew up here as young kids with our parents being involved simultaneously. This model is evolving today as we have



▲ Mr. & Mrs. Iskandar with their son Farid & daughter Carla

our young riders presently competing and training. As such, there is a code of conduct that we grew up with and are naturally passing on to our children.

**Who has had the greatest impact on you as a veteran club member?**

I would say Gen. Elwy Ghazy. On the other hand, Gen. Mohamed Selim Zaki, Captain Ibrahim Abdallah and Gen. Gamal Harris have left their memorable marks too. Several others can fit this bill as well.

**Do you think you have achieved enough for the club?**

I would say that I contributed by creating the first junior rider's school for the club back in 1996. I had just started training some young riders, including Karim El Zoghby, Ahmed Hussein, Ayman Waked and Ismail Shaker - who are now friends and

colleagues there. Karim el Zoghby went on to win a silver medal at the Mediterranean Games and to become an Olympic rider.

**What kind of challenges do you face at the club?**

There are many, of course, but I think the biggest would be bringing the younger and older generations of riders closer together as, you may well be aware, the difference in mentality and approach to general issues can be a challenging factor.

Another challenge would be attracting new members who would fit with old members harmoniously and without any conflicts, members with vision and potential contributions to the club.

In addition, finding enough financial revenue that would sustain the club is a challenge. Managing its limited resources constructively and coming

up with good structural and technical plans in order to continuously develop the sport within is also a challenge. Finally, to be able to listen to and accept all different opinions, yet have a strong vision that would be generally accepted by almost everyone.

**What are you expecting from the board in the near future?**

It is to help club members to choose what is good for the sport and to maintain the same atmosphere that we grew up with; it is quite unique. I also wish to see board members who come from three generations of riders from within. I hope we can all chip in with clear visions and passions, and share them with everyone involved there. And finally as a father and as a rider, I wish to see the club stay the way it is, since I would like to see my son and daughter grow up there with the same values. 🏠