



JUDGING AND MORE

EMMAD ELDIN ZAGHLOUL'S PERSPECTIVE

By Abdel Rahman Moslem

JUDGING IS, HAS BEEN AND WILL ALWAYS BE A CORNER STONE OF THE SHOWJUMPING SPORT. THE ROLE OF THE JUDGE DEPENDS NOT ONLY ON THE FEI RULES BUT MORE ON HIS VISION, COMPASSION AND RECOGNITION OF THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE AND RIDER; IN FACT, THE JUDGE IMPACTS THE RULES EVENTUALLY. ENGINEER EMMAD ZAGHLOUL IS ONE OF THE FINEST EXAMPLES WHO SPENT A LIFETIME IN THE EQUESTRIAN FIELD AND WHO HAS A REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE AS A JUDGE.

MY PATH

My journey with horses and horseback riding started when I was five. It all goes to my father who made me love this sport and then it became a fundamental part of my life and career. I learned a great deal of things! Starting with how to deal with horses, then grooming and taking care of them and finally how to deal with the horse during and after riding. I rode horses outside of Egypt, specifically in Europe; I was a dressage rider at the beginning and then started showing some interest in judging. My judging career started in Saudi Arabia in the late 80s and I came back to Egypt in the 90s to start judging showjumping and Dressage national championships. I was lucky enough to have attended about 5 generations of riders throughout my judging career.

PARTICULAR JUDGING INCIDENTS

One very strange incident was in the late 90s and it was the final round of the Egyptian national championships, where at that time there weren't any digital stopwatches and as substitute there was an arena judge, who was responsible for informing the judges panel of any mistake from the rider. At this time I was the arena judge and our renowned Olympic rider Karim El Zoghby was still very young. What happened was that Karim finished the course with the best time and he was supposed to be in first place; however, I had another opinion as an arena judge! I raised the flag which meant that there was something wrong; the head of the judges contacted me and I told him that Karim did not pass the finish line!! He told me that what I am saying is critical and it would mean that Karim will not be the winner. I insisted on raising the flag and he hesitated for a moment and then announced that Karim was disqualified due to not passing the finish line. The crowd was mad and they opposed me, but I insisted on what I saw. Luckily Karim entered the competition with two horses not one. The strange thing was that when he finished the course with the second horse he got the best time but also did not pass the finish line, which was a backup for my previous resolution where the crowd realised it because both of us were more attentive the second time. After that incident I became close friends with Karim El Zoghby.

Another incident that I would never forget was when I started judging show jumping in Saudi Arabia in the late 80s; the judging committee had a delegate from every club for neutrality and I was the delegate of El Tohami Equestrian Center. After the competition started, I went to the bathroom for a second and then saw that the rider in the arena did not jump the fence that was directly next to the judging platform. For a second I was confused, but I thought the judging Committee must have seen this and they will address this issue. The committee announced the result of the rider without noticing that he didn't jump the fence. The crowd was angry as they saw what happened and they wanted the rider to be disqualified. The competition was stopped to work out a solution for this issue. I talked to the head of the judging committee and told him that the rider did not jump that fence; he asked if I was sure and I insisted on what I saw. We knew that we have a huge problem and we had to come up with a solution, because the rider is insisting that we announced the result and we cannot change it. I called the rider and told him "look you did not jump this fence and we all know that you didn't." He opposed me with saying that the committee announced the result, and then I told him that we can prove that he didn't jump the fence with a video in front of the audience and he would not look good in front of them. The rider took the microphone and announced his result and that he is disqualified and the audience applauded for his high sport spirit. This is an incident that I will always remember. 🙏



Photos by: Mohamed Hassan Kormed

Mob: 01221599222

Facebook Page: ftopia photography

E-mail: mkormed@gmail.com

Instagram: ftopia.photography

