Profile

## Shaher Khalifa... a horseman re-discovered

Some people say that "success stories are all over, you just have to look for them". Here is a success story we looked for in the history of the Equestrian sports that would help inspire both young and old riders.

Shaher Hassan Khalifa, born on the twentieth of



"The youngest jockey in Egypt", Mr. Shaher Khalifa when he was only 15 years old.

January 1939. Mr. Khalifa graduated from the Faculty of Law in Cairo University, class of 1962, achieved the high diploma in administrative law in 1963, as well as the high diploma in public law in 1964. He started riding when he was around seven years old as his eldest brother General Saad Khalifa, who was junior officer in the army, and a rider, and so was his father before him.

Mr. Khalifa loved everything about horseback riding, but his favorite kind of competition is horse racing. When he was fifteen years old he participated in his first horse race, or competition as a whole. Surprisingly, he won first place in this race, and the media declared him "the youngest jockey in Egypt". His last official race was in April 2003, in Gezira club. The distance of the race was 10 Kilometers. In this race Mr. Khalifa was the 'oldest' Jockey participating and he won third place.

Mr. Khalifa's first show jumping competition was in 1960. The competition was held in Maadi Sporting Club and it was a 110 cm coarse. Although he just trained shortly before the competition, he jumped a clear round and successfully won first place.

Horse back riding helped Mr. Khalifa to develop the refined character of a horseman that is based on courage and nobility. This character has also reflected on his profession as a lawyer, and on his children. His eldest son, Mohamed Khalifa, is a professional horse trainer, his grand children Mohamed Essawy and Hana Khalifa are show jumpers with a bright future. On top of that his eldest brother, General Saad Khalifa, who is a great inspiration for the whole family, was the previous chairman of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation, and a member of the board of the International Equestrian Federation.



from right to left: Mrs Amina Khalifa, Hana Khalifa, Mr. Mohamed Khalifa, Mr. Shaher Khalifa, General Saad Khalifa, Mohamed Essawy.

