



RABAB INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS A HAVEN FOR ARABIAN HORSES

By Khaled Assem





Gold yearling filly champion Rasha El Mamlaka



Silver yearling filly champion Nagham El Bidaa



Gold junior filly champion Hend El Rayyan Misr



Silver junior filly champion Nehmedo El Gameel



Bronze yearling filly champion Bokra El Farida



Consultant Eng. Khaled bin Laden presenting Dr. Nasr Marei with a trophy



Bronze junior filly champion Manar El Kahera



Dr. Hans-J. Nagel, President of the WAHO

THE RABAB INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE CHAMPIONSHIPS TOOK PLACE IN CAIRO ON OCTOBER 24TH 2013. THE VENUE, RABAB STUD, IS A HAVEN FOR ARABIAN HORSES AND AN IDEAL SHOW LOCATION WITH ITS EXCELLENT FACILITIES, LARGE NUMBER OF HOSTING AND BOARDING BOXES IN THE DOMED ARAB STYLE, PADDOCKS, AND LARGE SHOW ARENAS ALL SHELTERED IN GREEN GROOMED ACREAGE SHADED BY DATE PALMS WITHIN SIGHT OF THE ANCIENT SAQQARA PYRAMIDS. ADD TO ALL OF THESE PLUSSES THE OBVIOUS PASSION OF THE HOSTS AND ORGANISERS OF THE SHOW, ALWAYS A SMILE AND A WARM WELCOME, EFFICIENT AND DYNAMIC AND YOU HAVE AN IDEAL SETTING FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIPS. WE COULD CARRY ON WITH OUR PRAISE AND COMMENDATION OF THE VENUE AND THE EVENT, BUT WE WILL LEAVE THE COMMENTS NOW TO THE RABAB PARTICIPANTS THEMSELVES...

MRS. IRINA STIGLER
Judge - Russia:

I frequently visit Egypt; this is my third time in the country and my second year to judge at Rabab. I see some progress with the young horses. The quality is improving very fast especially with yearlings. The pace of the progress is also quite good, particularly with the presentation as they are using the services of European handlers and the level is getting better every time. The hospitality is great, of course, and can't really complain about the weather!

MRS. NABILA AL-ALI
Commentator - Kuwait

This is my second year at Rabab and I am very proud to be invited. Egypt is known to have very good commentators and very good voices so being here amongst them is a privilege. The show is lovely; Rabab Stud has such a friendly atmosphere and Sheikh Khaled bin Laden has a very special aura about his personality that adds to the whole show.

I recently started to commentate at shows in Belgium and that made me very happy because even though I commentate at

shows all over the Middle East. It was quite interesting to work with a European audience; presenting Arabian horses with Arab names, correctly pronounced in Arabic added flair to the show. As for the crowd in Egypt, they are extremely interactive. Last year a groom gave me a good remark; he told me that my presence and my voice were a good winning charm for him and his horses.

I am always glad to be here as Egypt...well, it is like a second home to me, and I feel that my experience as a show jumping judge gave me more depth of field



Gold champion senior mares Sheikhat Al Khalediah



Silver champion senior mares Loaloah El Kahera



Gold champion yearling colts El Basha Ounny



Silver champion yearling colts Djdan Ibn Djsira



Bronze champion senior mares Ajenda



Mr. Aly Shaarawy



Bronze champion yearling colts Ward El Masaeid



Dr. Mohamed Machmoum

when it came to commentating on and presenting Arabian horse shows even though I fully intend to become a judge for halter classes. For now, I am reading intensely to get familiar with the terms used in such shows, and to add my own expressions and feelings according to what I see.

MR. NASHAAT HEGAZY
Show Organiser - Egypt

Despite the difficulties Egypt is currently going through, we worked really hard to set up this show and we were able to bring in more sponsors, over 220 participating horses and five countries competing apart from Egypt. I have to say that the levels of horses participating were certainly higher than in the

previous years.

The most difficult adversity that challenges us as organisers is that we are unable to host foreign horses due to the EU ban. We came up with a plan to host the World Championships with Italian organisers, yet unless the ban is lifted, we won't be able to put together a successful event.

MR. ALY SHAARAWY
Judge - Egypt

The second class of the young fillies was remarkable as it showed the wealth in the pool of good horses available in Egypt. This is very important if we want to define where good work is taking place as well as a route for development. Presenting the

horses is still an area where we need to develop; our local boys are still behind in experience and some are without good talent when it comes to extension.

Also, horses should be trained all year round not just before shows. Judges are here to see the strengths and faults in a horse. If a horse is trained and exercised well, considering that he is naturally talented, then certainly the marks for movement, for example, will grow higher. Yet, as I mentioned, the horse has to have it within as well. Consequently type plus exercise will bring out the best in the horse. This show is really well organised and it is acquiring an international flavour and I hope to see more participation next year.

DR. MOHAMED MACHMOUM
Judge - Morocco

I have been attending this show since its birth. In Egypt there are three elements that one has to recognise:

A very special and interactive audience that is well informed and in love with this discipline which tremendously adds to the success of the show.

The quality of participating horses; even though maybe 60% of the total number of studs participated and not all, the quality is still great which just indicates that the number of good horses in Egypt is very high and that in itself is success.

The organisation every year shows passion, vision, competitiveness and the desire to be on an international level.

All this is an addition to the Egyptian Arabian horse infrastructure and wealth in this sport.

I also noticed that the classes for the producing mares and stallions were very rich in quality and number, and those classes are the base for any breeding programme. Moreover, the three-year-old classes were very impressive.

Egypt has some excellent bloodlines and the EAO is one of the richest banks worldwide. This is a treasure not just for Egypt but

for the whole of the Middle East. As to further developments of this industry, in my view what is needed is:

- Producing parallel complementing factors such as the handlers. There is not one local Arab handler that can match the skills of a European. All the studs always import or hire foreign handlers.
- There is still some deficiency in the veterinarian field. Its development will surely add to the progress of the industry.

On the breeding level, Egypt has very successful progeny due to very experienced and selective breeding programmes, yet still, there is a lot of room for development in the affiliate



Gold champion junior colts Sohaib El Farid



Bronze champion junior colts Ezz El Khahera



Gold champion senior stallions PCF Vision



Silver champion senior stallions Awwal El Ammar



Bronze champion junior colts Zamzam EL Sayad



Mohamed Akl, Irina Stigler & Marwa Fawzy



Bronze champion senior stallions Imperial Baareq



The Organising Team of the Rabab 2013 Championships

industries as I mentioned such as producing professional educated grooms and enriching the pool of judges. Egypt is a big name in this field and there should be a "factory" of excellent grooms, vets, and most importantly, judges to support.

Finally a cornerstone that without a doubt should be compulsory is the need for good training for the horses, not just preparation but regular good training to keep the muscles' confirmation of the horses for the shows and for international competitions. I saw some horses that were a bit overweight and some were out of shape. I am, after all, looking for

an athletic horse.

It would be a good idea to hold a seminar after each show hosting breeders to explain some of their views and recommendations as well as some of the advantages that they saw in order to create more awareness to at least some of the other upcoming breeders. This will also allow the judge to communicate and interact with them. A simple remark could actually lead to the change of a breeding programme and further develop it.

In that sense, the role of HT is to try to get out there and develop the dynamics of communication

within the industry where more people could benefit. Finally, the target and aim of shows is not just to present who is a winner, but to learn about the ideal horse and programme's strength, and how the industry could become stronger. It is such a responsibility to be a judge because through a judge's points, someone could continue in his path and another could change one. Judging is and should remain to be a beacon of light for the breeder who wants to learn.

DR. MOHAMED OUSSIDHOUM
Judge - Morocco

This is my first time here, the

quality is very good and everyone is generously hospitable. The organisation is great as well; the female fillies and colts were a good class. I wish all the best for Egypt.

MR. JOSY EVERARS
Judge - Belgium

This is my second time in Egypt. I see improvements as I noticed that more breeders keep participating every year and that the horses' conditions have improved from last year.

Overall, the quality is there. In Europe it is a bit different with our food and other factors, yet

what the breeders are doing here is good because I simply see the results through the efforts done in the shows. The presentation is improving by using European handlers and for sure there is room for improvement; not on the big levels but on the smaller ones. I see that there is some work to be done on the personal level than in the genetic. They are using semen and the gene pool is more open now.

MRS. MICHAELE WEIDNER
Judge - Belgium

This is my first time as a judge here but I visited Egypt several times. I am very happily surprised, the horses are looking very good, they are very well handled, and some

horses have very good movement. I would put some attention on the legs; this is the only thing I could criticise. I would also recommend development through breeding by using better stallions and mares. But this problem is worldwide and not just in Egypt. In all, it's a top show and I loved the senior mares' class which showed the richness in the gene pool and the fillies; they have great potential. 🏆

For full results, see:
<http://tinyurl.com/k5an32l>

All photos courtesy of Ahmed Nashaat El-Hamadany
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