SELECT INTERNATIONAL **EQUESTRIAN SPONSORSHIP**

PART 4: KARIM ABDELFATTAH

By Khaled Assem

IN HT'S SERIES OF INTERVIEWS WITH FOUR EGYPTIAN SHOW JUMPING RIDERS SPONSORED BY SPSS, WE CONTINUE WITH THE FOURTH RIDER. KARIM ABDELFATAH. SPSS EGYPT, AN IBM COMPANY AND A LEADING GLOBAL PROVIDER OF PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS SOFTWARE AND SOLUTIONS, STARTED SPONSORING LOCAL RIDERS IN 2009 AND HAS BEEN DOING SO EVER SINCE.

You are being sponsored by how do you feel about social to be sponsored by SPSS? SPSS; what does it add to your exposure? training programme?

provision of riding gear.

I think yes. It is quite socially The agreement includes the enriching and the idea of publicity is useful.

While being sponsored by SPSS, Why do you think you were chosen the A-Class for two years now and it

It's friendship as much as anything else. Riding is not only about results, it is also about behaviour; I could add value to the team and to Shady's vision. I have been riding in





at picking hard-working riders who invest in their training programmes, aspire to achieve results, and were short time.

results to date? Not necessarily big wins, but courses where you very well?

two years ago was my first big win where I was placed 6th; this was one good moment for me in the sport. Also, during the 2012 CSI1*- Cairo HORSES & HOPES International Show Jumping Festival, the Big Tour was one of the biggest classes I had ridden and I was proud of my results as I only had one down.

Riding to me is an inspirational process that changes my life for Tell us about your breeding the better. I would have loved to programme; is your programme

and mileage. Of course I'd love to compete in Arab League events, however due to the ongoing horse able to prove themselves in such a ban I am unable to travel with my horses. I had planned two years ago that after I go to Germany with What were some of your best my horses, I would compete at the Arab League, however that has not materialised. Now I've sent my felt that you and the horses did horses abroad through Jordan and they're currently in Belgium. I'm hoping that next year I'll be able The World Cup Qualifiers in Jordan to fulfil my initial plans regarding competition.

Tell us something about your familv?

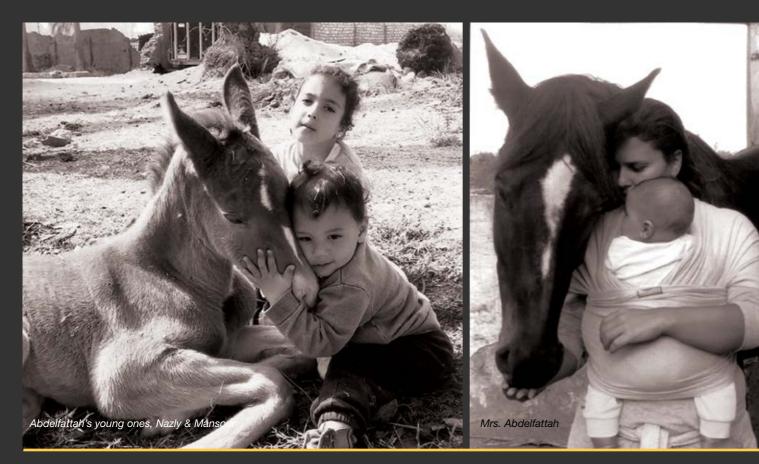
I have a seven-year-old daughter, Nazly, and two sons: Taymour who is five years old and Mansour who is two. They all adore horses and so does their mum Sherifa. I hope that professional riding in the future.

could be that Shady possibly aimed achieve big results but it needs time more a business or is it more for the love of the sport?

It's for the love of the sport; it wasn't a financial initiative at all. Sherifa loves horses and she wanted to breed them, so I got her two horses and she started from there. Having said that, now with horse prices abroad so high, I am planning to locally produce good horses for the future as currently I only have two young good ones. This will also be a great investment for the kids.

Do you feel that the sponsor is getting good response – and if not, what kind of improvements would you suggest?

To tell you the truth I had hoped that the idea would spread and more sponsors would appear. The idea of sponsorship is a great What are your plans for the future? my three little bundles of joy take on one for the sport and to develop it, more companies could potentially appear on the sponsorship scene, sponsor other teams and riders, and competition between them could



a different kind for the local industry.

What do you think of this year's season and what would you suggest to improve future ones?

Well, to be honest, this year's is not like any other sport, it's you and season did not show the dynamism we were looking forward to and I would like to see more progress with the sport even though I understand that Egypt is currently going through an unstable political and economic phase. However, the sport must continue and more international events should be organised. This year's season was as stagnant as that which took place two years ago; unfortunately, nothing was added to riders and trainers would be present. the sport this season.

Equestrian Federation (EEF) should give the private sector a exposure and experience. The world chance to organise events?

Yes, this is what happened when SPSS started this sponsorship initiative. The EEF supported the concept and was going to organise two annual events for teams between companies that have a sponsorship programme. It was a great idea and has to able to afford it to achieve

take place. This could be progress of it was going to attract more people.

What would you like to say to young riders competing in C and D classes?

I would like to tell them that this sport the horse together. Enjoy it whether you win or lose. Be dedicated and stick to your plans

Would you advise people to go attend clinics abroad or get someone to train them here?

Both have to be done. In the past we had two Arab League events in Egypt; as such many international But once again, due to the ban, we have to try our best to travel, Are you saying that the Egyptian as persons not even as riders anymore, in order to gain basic is advancing, however due to current circumstances we aren't.

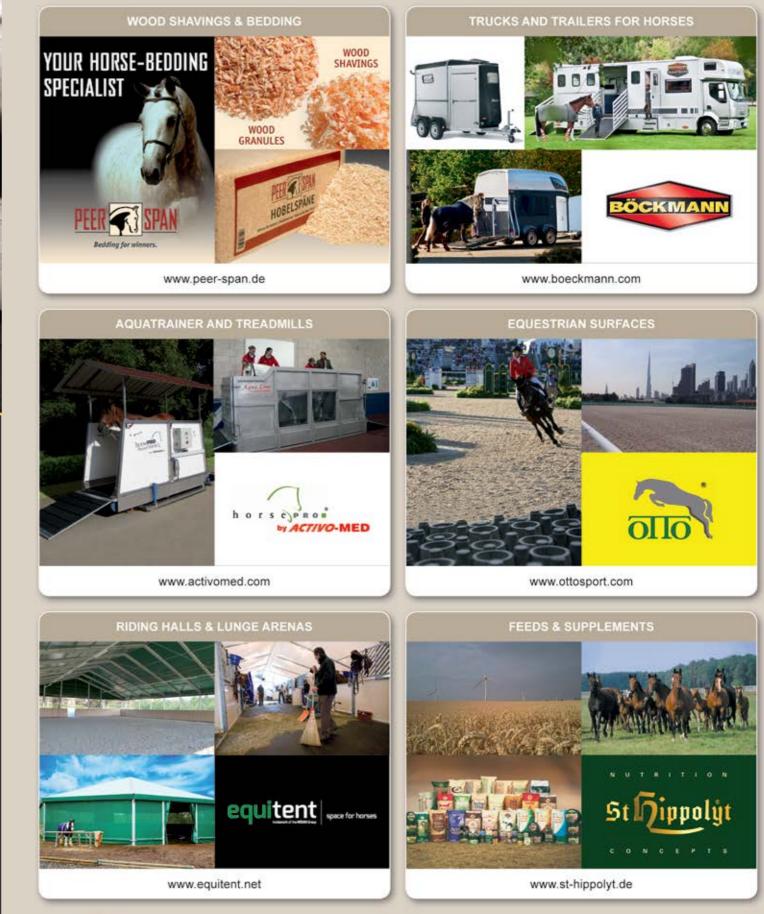
management of El Gezira Club regarding equestrian sport?

It's an expensive sport and the rider

what he wants; so the club can't do anything about the rider's personal expenses, but they should provide more facilities. There was a plan before to develop and improve the place, and to make the riding arenas bigger to be able to hold international events and this should be carried out. There is some kind of progress but we still have a long way to go. 🏠

ABOUT SPSS: Founded in 1968, today SPSS has more 250,000 customers than worldwide, served by more than 1,200 employees in 60 countries. Smart Vision (SPSS-ME) is an IBM partner following the IBM acquisition of SPSS Inc. and assists a wide variety of customers in the region in different business areas, playing the role of helping researchers in getting deeper What's your message for the insight into their existing data and applying these insights and forecasts at both the strategic and tactical levels to a number of critical business problems.

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