

Headlines

Issue no. 35



freejumpsystem.com

Sole Agent



2, Bahgat Ali Street, Zamalek, Cairo - Egypt Tel & Fax: +2 02 27356939 +2 02 27354348 post@equicarecompany.com



FAMILY

Chairman

Khaled Assem

Managing Editor

Menna Loutfy

Assistant Managing Editor

Nermin Marwan

Art Director

Salonaz Sakr

Design and Layout

Omneya Mohamed

Cover

Dalia Rady







Starting May 18th and over a course of five days, the Jumping International competition in Bourg en Bresse took place in France. This city has been a major institution in the French breeding region for 30 years. This year, Jeanne Ducousset Gonin, wife of Julien Gonin, the flagship rider of the Rhône Alpes region, has masterfully taken up the torch of the organization of the CSI, which has been held since its inception by Mr. Alain Landais.

The InterExpo site was not less exciting than the competition itself. The exhibition center of the city

of Bourg en Bresse set up exceptional installations surrounded by grandstands and bleachers along with a vast exhibitor village and animation. The entrance also was free with various kinds of catering as well as amazing activities and entertainment that were very attractive for families. About 30,000 spectators joined the spectacle to take part of the renowned annual event.

The competitions, supported by many partners who sponsored the event, took place over five days with the participation of 200 riders from 28 different nations (including 19 countries in the CSI 4*) and 450 horses.







The Jumping competitions were endowed with 212,000 euros prize money including 100,000 Euros for the 4* Grand Prix that was indeed an attraction for international riders.

Especially that it comprised several levels of events; the CSI 4* had four Longines Ranking List events, the CSI 2* consisted of seven events ranging from 1.30 m to 1.45 m as well as the CSI amateur stage of the Amateur Gold Tour FFE Esthederm. This diversity of categories promoted greater participation in the competition.

In the CSI 4* Grand Prix, Luxembourg's rider Victor Bettendorf distinguished himself with his horse, Mr. Tac, by winning the 1.55m Grand Prix of Bourg en Bresse, finishing ahead of the six other jump-off riders in the event. On this occasion, Juliette Faligot has crowned the best 4* rider and Benoit Cernin made the best rider.

As for the Grand Prix Région Auvergne Rhône Alpes 1.50 m, 1st place went to Eduardo Pereira followed by Menezes accompanied by Calypso des Matis.

In the CSI 2* competition, it was a clear round for the French rider Audrey Paris, with Big Star des Forêts who won the Grand Prix de la Laiterie de Montaigu 1.45 m. Finally, the Grand Prix Bouvard, the flagship event of the CSI Amateur 1.25 m. was claimed by Marie Demaison and Gadget HBC.



Throughout the five days of competitions, various activities were interspersed between the events. Particularly Fences sale of performers aged 4 to 7 and a foal competition. All the events and activities were commentated on by the essential speakers like Yannick Bichon and Alison Drummond.

To conclude, we can affirm that the Jumping International of Bourg en Bresse was once again a great event. The presence of many very high-level riders including Olympic riders and reigning champions absolutely delighted the public and raised the bar of the competition.

The Moroccan riders successfully managed to overcome the obstacles of the Morocco Royal Tour placed on the track, announcing the return of this 4* tour and Nations Cup next fall.

Finally, Jeanne Ducousset Gonin announced his return to organize the 2023 Edition of the event which will once again be an essential event in the world of horse riding.





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HT INTERVIEW WITH KARIM AZMY AND HIS SON

ONE MUST ALWAYS WONDER ABOUT THE JOURNEY OF BRINGING UP AN EQUESTRIAN CHAMPION; HIS LIFESTYLE AND THE ROLE OF HIS FAMILY IN SUCH SUCCESS. HORSE TIMES MAGAZINE HAS DECIDED TO WORK ON A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS THAT EXPLORE THE VALUE OF HORSEMANSHIP, AS WELL AS HOW FAMILY BONDS CAN LEAD TO FURTHER SUCCESS THAT ENDS WITH INTRODUCING A HERO TO THE EQUESTRIAN WORLD.





OUR MEETING THIS TIME IS WITH A BEAUTIFUL FAMILY; A FATHER OF 2; MR. KAREEM AZMY. KAREEM HAS HORSE-RIDING BACKGROUND AND HE DECIDED TO HAVE A FUTURE RIDING EXPERIENCE WITH HIS SON YOUSSEF.

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF, YOUR EDUCATION.

My name is Kareem Azmy, a father of two Boys; 15 years old Ismaiel and 13 years old Yousef. I have a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering; but I work in the field of tourism because I have a travel Agency that has been my family business.

DID YOU HAVE ANY HORSE RIDERS IN YOUR FAMILY?

In 1985, my father decided to move out of town, and build house in the countryside, with small stable where me and my brother used to ride horses.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE HORSEBACK RIDING AS A SPORT FOR YOUR SON?

I didn't choose this sport for him, he was the one who chose horseback riding, my son Youssef is animal lover and a lover of nature, and I encouraged him because He should be doing what he loves.

WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU, HIS EDUCATION, OR ATHLETIC LIFE?

Both of them for sure, they should go in parallel in order to enhance his physical and his mental health, we can't choose one over the other.









DOES HE HAVE SIBLINGS? WHAT SPORTS DO THEY PLAY?

Yes, he has one elder brother Ismail, he is 15 years old, he plays basketball at El-Gezira club, he has been playing Basketball for the past 8 years, and it is his passion.

HOW DO YOU WANT TO SEE HIM AFTER 10 YEARS IN THIS SPORT?

Well, I would love see Youssef competing nationally in the Horseback riding competitions, maybe also internationally, this is of course a dream for me.

DID YOU HAVE THAT MOMENT, WHERE YOU SAID TO YOURSELF "WHY HORSE RIDING, IT WOULD BE BETTER IF HE JOINED ANY OTHER SPORT "?

Never, I have been always thinking that this is very nice Sport, most importantly that he loves it and enjoys what he is doing by all his heart.







WOULD YOU CONSIDER TAKING UP THIS EQUESTRIAN SPORT AS A CAREER FOR YOUR SON?

Sure, I am very open to such an idea. Youssef has the liberty to pursue the career he likes. I always tell him that you have to work hard, put all your effort and not to worry about the results. So, whatever the road he will choose, he has my full support.

HOW DOES THIS SPORT AFFECT HIS BEHAVIOR GENERALLY?

I think it is affecting him in a very positive way, he has learnt to be always ready, on time, focused, prepared and he became more independent person.

WHAT IS THE ADVICE YOU OFTEN SAY TO HIM?

Is to believe in himself, to work hard, never give up, put all his effort in what he is doing.

WHAT'S THE HAPPIEST MOMENT RELATED TO YOUR SON IN THIS SPORT THAT YOU REMEMBER?

I remember that time when his coach asked me if Yousssef can compete in one of the rounds in national competition, I thought at that time that he maybe not be ready yet, But I was surprised that Youssef took his decision, competed and he won the first place

On that day I was so happy, and proud, that was very memorable moment for me!

WHAT ADVICE YOU CAN GIVE TO OTHER PARENTS ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO MIGHT NOT CARE ABOUT THE SPORTY LIFE OF THEIR CHILDREN?

What I can say that Sports is very essential for any child; mentally, physically, socially, it affects all aspects of live in a very positive way.

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THE SON

YOUSSEF AZMY 13 YEARS

WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL?

My father, my grandpa and my coaches

DOES HORSE RIDING AFFECT YOUR EDUCATION?

No, I don't think so.

In my opinion it's all about how you can manage your time.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST MOTIVATION?

I see my greatest motivation is thinking about where I started and where I am now.

WHAT'S YOUR BIG DREAM?

My biggest dream is to own stables abroad, and become a professional rider who can teach others.

IS HORSE RIDING THE ROAD YOU WISH TO PROCEED IN, AS A CAREER?

Yes, I would love it, I enjoy it so much, and it would be amazing.

WHAT THE MESSAGE YOU WANT TO SAY TO YOUR MOTHER?

Thank you for everything you have been doing and all your support, you mean the world to me.



ART

SIHAM MOHARRAM





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