



DOHA 2011
FIRST LEG OF THE GCT TOUR
By Khaled Assem



Billy Towmey, Ireland



▲ Winners of the final with Jan Tops & Rashid Al Mansoori at the press conference

EIGHTEEN HEAVYWEIGHT SHOW JUMPING RIVALS PROGRESSED TO THE SECOND ROUND OF THE FIRST LEG OF THE GLOBAL CHAMPIONS TOUR GRAND PRIX WITH ONLY THREE JUMPING DOUBLE CLEAR WHICH ENSURED A VERY EXCITING JUMP-OFF.

Brazil's Alvaro de Miranda Neto (Doda) riding the scopey AD Ashleigh Drossel Dan was first to go on the shortened, technical track. They produced a sensationally fast clear jump-off round in 42.53 seconds whilst placing pressure on Germany's Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum on Shutterfly and Switzerland's Pius Schwizer.

An enthusiastic crowd was looking forward to a win by the 18 year old Shutterfly and his crowd favourite rider, however a fence down at a vertical four fences from home meant second place at best. Schwizer riding Carlina looked up on time around the first part of the course, however with a fence down as they approached home allowing de Miranda to breathe

a sigh of relief from the 'kiss and cry' stand. This was the first Global Champions Tour victory for Doda who has been performing at every event since it started in 2006.

The Global Champions Tour President Jan Tops confirmed that Qatar would be hosting the first leg of the championship next year too.

JAN TOPS:

2011 TOUR: We have ten events this year; we started the first leg here in Doha and end the tour in Abu Dhabi in November. We are very excited about being in Abu Dhabi this year; it's an experience for us as organisers and also exciting for the sport in the Middle Eastern region in general.

DEVELOPMENTS:

Organisers of each show are trying to upgrade the aspects of the show; details always present more perfection.

RIDERS:

The top riders of the show jumping scene are all here and are aware of the competition levels. They make sure they attend and actually plan their whole season around the GCT. I am very proud and happy about that.

PUBLICITY:

I think the press' responsibility is to keep informing equestrian



▲ Yasser Charif, Syria

enthusiasts in this region. This year we have five Arab riders competing in the tour and you never know how many of them will be participating in years to come. It's growing.

**RASHID AL MANSOORI,
PRESIDENT OF THE QATAR
EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION:**

Congratulations to the people sitting here at the press conference table for their super efforts. I thank Jan Tops for organising such a good circuit. There are many improvements for Qatar as we believe this is the best place for a championship of this level. The GCT is very important for our riders and as a major sporting event and I look forward to seeing the final this year in the Gulf.

The last two years I have seen great improvement in the performance of Qatari riders and the growth of our sport. Private owners are now here and show jumping is being recognised as a great horse sport along the lines of racing which has been dominating the local horse

scene for so long.

ALVARO DE MIRANDA NETO:

Thanks to everyone at the tour for all the work they have done to bring our sport to such a level. This is my first GCT win, one which was very hard to get given the competition levels of great riders such as Meredith and Pius. My horse is the best horse I have had in my life and it is so pleasant to have him around our stables. He has all the talent in the world and if you ride him well he will do well, so I am happy to start the 2011 GCT season with a win.

MEREDITH MICHAELS-BEERBAUM:

I was delighted and pleased with Shutterfly's performance; he is 18 years old and jumped so well. He is part of the family and it is a privilege to be able to ride such a horse. The second round was one of the hardest courses that we have ever ridden. I appreciated Doda's performance and the way he put pressure on us; it

was a fast run by him!

PIUS SCHWIZER:

I have really enjoyed coming to the city of Doha. Effort to finish behind such a great horse and it was a fast round with very good riding by Doda. The stabling facilities were of the highest levels with the horses having spacious air conditioned boxes which meant they could have plenty of good rest in order to be in peak condition to compete at the highest level. Denis Lynch was fifth on two time faults, one in each round; with two time faults you don't get very far and the first time fault was my mistake. I could have ridden a lot faster to stay inside the time. The second one - I had the disadvantage of starting first and it was difficult to avoid the time fault.

DENIS LYNCH:

The course was very big and wide and the arena here is fantastic; the footing is simply great. My horse

All Inclusive is a very experienced horse; I can't teach him anything anymore! I do my best, he does his best, and at the end we hope we get some money out of it!

ALI AL RUMAIHI:

The course was technical and not too difficult but the horses did not do too well. I will take them to Europe next, have them rest, re-programme them, and then complete the 2011 GCT tour.

CINDY VAN DER STRATEN:

This is my first time to jump such big classes. Last year in the GCT of Valencia I jumped small classes so this year I am starting with the big ones. I trained with Josh Lansink in the past and I have ridden with Juan Carlos Garcia for two years. Global Medique are a sponsor and Antares with saddles, but all my horses are owned by my family.

FRANK ROTHENBERGER:

I can't compare the courses here in Doha to any other Grand Prix; this one was big, technical and I think most horses jumped well. Overall, I expected faults at the triple combination which was difficult to jump at 180 meters wide.

YASSER CHARIF:

The courses at the GCT are generally big courses. I see international standards as well as international organisation, and top levels of competition by top horses. Everything related to the event is done meticulously down to the detail. As a rider, I would need an excellent horse to jump here.

BILLY TOWMEY:

It is always good to compete at GCT events. I'm very self critical of myself and I guess this is how one should be if he wants to keep improving. It's always important to recognise the basics as those are the fundamentals for being a good rider. I recently won the Grand Prix of Barcelona, La Boule and St. Gallen; winning a GCT show would be wonderful! 🏆



▲ Pius Schwizer, Switzerland

▼ Ali Al Rumaihi, Qatar





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▲ Michel Robert, France

GLOBAL CHAMPIONS TOUR GRAND PRIX OF QATAR, MARCH 19TH 2011
TABLE A, 2 ROUNDS/TIME 2ND ROUND, 1 JUMP OFF

Rider	Horse	Prize	Round A	Round B	Jump Off	Time
Alvaro de Miranda Neto	AD Ashleigh Drossel Dan	€ 150,000	0	0	0	42.53
Pius Schwizer	Carlina	€ 100,000	0	0	4	43.35
Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum	Shutterfly	€ 60,000	0	0	4	45.13
Luciana Diniz	Lennox	€ 40,000	0	1		70.50
Denis Lynch	All Inclusive NRW	€ 25,000	1	1		72.90

CS5* 1.45/1.50M, MARCH 19TH 2011
TABLE A, AGAINST THE CLOCK, NO JUMP OFF

Rider	Horse	Prize	Round A	Time
Simon Delestre	Orphee de l'Illon	€ 8,000	0	59.51
Guy Williams	Torinto van de Middelstede	€ 4,000.00	0	60.85
Janika Sprunger	JL's Komparse	€ 3,000.00	0	61.37

CSI5* 1.45/1.50M, MARCH 18TH 2011
TABLE A, AGAINST THE CLOCK, 1 JUMP OFF

Rider	Horse	Prize	Round A	Jump Off	Time
Bernardo Alves	Kingly du Reverdy	€ 24,000	0	0	41.49
Billy Twomey	Je t'Aime Flamenco	€ 12,000	0	0	41.61
Jeroen Dubbeldam	BMC van Grunsven Simon	€ 9,000	0	0	42.03

CSI5* 1.50M, MARCH 17TH 2011
TABLE A, AGAINST THE CLOCK, 1 JUMP OFF

Rider	Horse	Prize	Round A	Jump Off	Time
Roger-Yves Bost	Ideal de la Loge	€ 24,000	0	0	44.20
Michel Robert	Kellemoi de Pepita	€ 12,000	0	0	44.63
Simon Delestre	Napoli du Ry	€ 9,000	0	0	44.99

CSI5* 1.45M
TABLE A, AGAINST THE CLOCK, NO JUMP OFF

Rider	Horse	Prize	Round A	Time
Guy Williams	Torinto van de Middelstede	€ 8,000	0	58.51
Christian Ahlmann	Sebastian 89	€ 4,000	0	59.08
Alvaro de Miranda Neto	AD Norson	€ 3,000	0	59.20



Alvaro de Miranda, Brazil