



## IN DEPTH WITH ABDULLAH EL-MARRI

# WINNER OF CSI4\* LONGINES AL SHIRA'AA GRAND PRIX

### QUESTION 1: HOW DOES IT FEEL, WINNING AL SHIRA'AA GRAND PRIX?

It is a dream come true, it's the 3rd edition this year and I was really close to winning it in the 1st edition back in 2017. I had the last fence down in the jump off and we finished 4th. It's been a long wait for me and Sama ,so we are really happy to win it this year.

### QUESTION 2: TELL US ABOUT THE MARE YOU WON WITH, SAMA?

Sama Dubai is a mare I bought as a 4 year old. She has all the talent in the world to jump bugbear fences and I always believed she is going to shine on the big stage. She was on the team that won the Barcelona final in 2017, but I always believed she deserves an individual crown suited for her.

### QUESTION 3: TELL US ABOUT YOUR SPONSORS

Al Shira'aa Stable has been sponsoring the UAE team and myself for the last two years in order to step our game in the big sport. they also work on setting a good foundation of young riders, juniors and Children. It's a big operation with a **full team of vets, stable managers, farriers and staff.** They work endlessly with our horses and provide them with best care possible ,so we can concentrate on **riding at the highest level.**

### QUESTION 4: YOU MUST HAVE A SPECIAL TRAINING PROGRAM

For sure we do, but in this sport I believe you always have to learn new things and evolve with the sport as it progresses.

### QUESTION 5: WHO'S COACHING YOU NOW?

I work currently with **Al Shiraa Team trainer** and **Olympic medalist Khaled al Eid**, we have been working for two months already and it's been a great experience for me.

### QUESTION 6: HOW WAS 2018?

I think 2018 was good for us but in some ways we haven't been lucky with a few things; **Sama Dubai got injured** early in the year which made us miss the Asian games and WEG. But we need to always look forward in this sport and we had the perfect start in 2019.

### QUESTIONS 7: PLANS AND HOPES FOR 2019.

Our biggest aim is the **Olympic qualifications** with the UAE Team, so hopefully we will have a strong team to qualify when the time comes. Hopes are high in the UAE camp and we have a group of **super talented horses and riders.** 