

Interview with Rob Ehrens Senior

A legend on his own...

By: Ahmed Talaat

He is Rob Ehrens, the Netherlands legend; he was one of the best riders in the 20th century and one of the best trainers all over the world now. Ehrens senior is the Netherlands young, junior, and pony riding team's trainer. Moreover, he won 35 grand prix competitions like Olympia, Hickstead, and Amsterdam; he also competed in three Olympic Games.

Out of all the important competitions you participated in, which was the most spectacular and unforgettable one?

It was in 1998 when I won the Grand Prix of Hickstead. All of the Top riders and horses participated in the Jump off; John Whitaker on Milton, Pierre Durand on Jappeloup, Nick Skelton on Apollo, Ludger Beerbaum on Land Lord, and Malcom Payrah on Tower Land Anglezarke.

If you have a good quality horse, how long will it take to prepare an internationally competing horse?

It takes a lot of time, because you have to compete in all of the small classes first so as to help the horse gain more experience in all classes. Then you start moving on to the higher classes. However, you have to let this process take enough time because if you tried jumping bigger classes quickly, you could easily loose the horse.

What would be your advice to amateurs who want to improve their riding?

The basics are the most important thing at the beginning. They should get more flat work training, which I think is strong here in Egypt, and give themselves enough time to learn the basics.

If you don't know how to sit in the right way, or you can't work all of the horse's body in flat work, you won't be able to jump.

How do you find Show Jumping here in Egypt?

After a couple of visits to Egypt I could say that I am surprised. There are a lot of good riders here, especially junior riders.

Do you think Egypt have horses that could compete internationally?

In Fact I think you have a shortage in big horses that can jump the 160 classes. You definitely have good riders and they have horses that could jump big classes, but I think this is not enough; they need more horses for higher classes.

What do you think of Egypt's first team? And what would be your advice to them?

In my opinion you have a really good quality of riders here in Egypt. If they continued working hard and had good horses, I think they would be professional enough to compete and actually win in Europe ■



Rob Ehrens in the 9th International Movenpick competition.