

Jumping International SYRIA



Karim Hamdy riding Nimmerdor



Karim Habashy riding Celine



Alaa Maisara riding Fun Fair



By Karim Habashy

After a series of hiccups, mixed signals, and excuses, a full Egyptian team was finally sent to the annual "Friendship" Horse Show in Damascus, held in the big indoor named after the late Basel Al Assad. Except for the public, which finds a sadistic pleasure in trying to frighten you & your horse when you're just two strides from your next fence, everything was in fact very friendly. The Syrian are very warm people and the general atmosphere at the show was great.

As for our performance in the ring, I think that despite our frustration at not winning all the classes everyday our results were very good. The youngsters Alaa & Dokdok monopolized the small 1.10m class until Mustafa, Yasser & myself managed to snatch some placings. In that class in particular we managed to get the Syrians -who outnumbered us by far- very very frustrated. The bigger 1.40m class was a tougher job. Here you could really feel the pressure of the competition, the big fences, the twisting courses of the Italian course designer & the wild audience. However, over the 3 days, Khaled, the 2 Karims, Borai & Ashraf managed excellent results against riders who were better equipped in terms of horses & particularly those of Saudi Arabia, Jordan & Syria.

Also worth mentioning here was the exceptional spirit within the Egyptian team. I remember other trips which were full of tensions, unhealthy rivalry, side-talk & well...I think you get the picture. This time there was none of that, despite the fact that we had both Jean-Yves & Samir as coaches & the Egyptian proverb about a ship with two captains...Good results, a great team spirit, superb food, lots of fun, we couldn't have wished for more!

The Egyptian Team Results - Friendship Horse Show in Damascus, March 2000

Day 1 - Tuesday 21-03-2000 / Class B 115-125 cm.			Day 1 - Tuesday 21-03-2000 / ClassA 130-135 cm.		
Place	Rider	Horse	Place	Rider	Horse
1 st	Mohamed Sabry	Top The Bell	2 nd	Khaled M. Ali	Jaguar Voltair
2 nd	Alaa Maisara	Fun Fair	3 rd	Karim Hamdy	Nimmerdor
Day 2 - Wednesday 22-03-2000 / Class B 115-125 cm.			Day 2 - Wednesday 22-03-2000 / ClassA 130-140 cm.		
2 nd	Alaa Maisara	Fun Fair	6 th	Karim El Sobky	Mr. Redly
4 th	Mohamed Sabry	Top The Bell	7 th	Karim Hamdy	Nimmerdor
5 th	Capt. Yasser Assar	Solivan	Day 3 - Friday 24-03-2000 / Grand Prix 140-145 cm.		
7 th	Mostafa Mossa	Dimocrat	2 nd	Karim Hamdy	Nimmerdor
Day 3 - Friday 24-03-2000 / Class B 115-125 cm.					
1 st	Mostafa Mossa	Dimocrat			
2 nd	Karim Habashy	Celine de la Tour			
3 rd	Alaa Maisara	Fun Fair			