



MOHAMED TALAAT

PERSISTENCE AND TALENT

By Khaled Assem

BECOMING SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONALLY IS NEVER LUCK, IT TAKES HARD WORK AND DEDICATION BUT, ABOVE ALL, GOOD PLANNING. UPGRADING YOUR SKILL IN THIS SPORT REQUIRES MANY DECISIONS SUCH AS WHO TO TRAIN WITH AT THIS LEVEL, WHICH HORSE IS MORE USEFUL, AND WHICH SHOWS TO CHOOSE AND WHEN. UNDOUBTEDLY, ONE FACES MANY CHALLENGES SOME OF WHICH DON'T DISAPPEAR EASILY AND ONLY THROUGH TIME AND PERSEVERANCE CAN ONE PREVAIL. YOU NEED TO BE READY FOR ADVERSITIES ONE AFTER THE OTHER AND ONCE YOU ARE SOLID ENOUGH IN YOUR SKILLS YOU ARE ON THE CORRECT PLATFORM TO TAKE IT FROM THERE TO SUCCESS. SHOW RIDER MOHAMED TALAAT KNOWS THIS LESSON WELL. WE CAUGHT UP WITH TALAAT RECENTLY AND THIS IS WHAT HE HAD TO SAY.



With Goldex in Abu Dhabi



With Connaught, the horse that helped Talaat qualify for the 2014 World Equestrian Games

You have ridden most of your life. When did you begin to take your riding career more professionally?

I started taking my riding career more professionally in 2007 after competing in my first Grand Prix which was a four-star show in Syria on my horse Lion Heart. Before that I thought that jumping a Grand Prix was something that was not possible for me.

What were the differences you made in your training or showing that made a dramatic positive change?

The distinctions in my path were riding everyday with Ludger Beerbaum, Marco Kutcher Philip Weishaupt and Henrik von Eckermann everyday at the yard in Riessenbeck. They were all helping me and were great

mentors seeing them work with their horses and communicating with them and asking them questions. The build-up for shows was great and priceless knowledge for me. I was also really keen on learning from them so I spent almost 10 hours a day in the stable watching them working and training with their horses.

Who were the most influential coaches that you had and why?

The most influential coaches in my career were, firstly, my father Tarek Talaat Moustafa who provided me with many opportunities in my life and he made me believe and achieve! Helena Weinberg, Cian O'Connor and Ludger Beerbaum were also great coaches. I started with Weinberg in 2010 and she taught me some really important basics that

helped me compete internationally, then in 2011 O'Connor was great at motivating me and taught me how to ride fast and have a winning attitude and be able to clear the fences regardless of what's happening. In 2013 "Sir" Beerbaum, a true horseman, really changed my point of view in everything that had to do with horses; he taught me how to communicate with my horses, how to develop connections with them, and how to let them work with me and not against me. In his stables I had the great opportunity to work with Kutcher, von Eckermann and Weishaupt.

Which horses were milestones in your career?

The horses that made a change in my career where first Lion Heart who I jumped on at my first Grand

Prix; he gave me confidence on the bigger level. Tallulah, which I won with at my first Grand Prix which was held in Alexandria at Kings Ranch, a horse I was also placed with at a couple of World Cup shows in Jordan and Sharm El Sheikh. After, came the legendary Goldex who was a real winner and made me really believe in myself; I jumped with him in 2013 the five-star Furussiya FEI Nations Cup with the Egyptian team competing against the greatest teams in the world. Then comes Beltone Partner who is a real partner as he is very careful and a real winner; I had many successes with him in addition to three finishes at the World Cup qualifiers of Amman and of course now, Egypt On The Rise CSI1* Grand Prix here in Cairo two weeks ago. And last but not least, Connaught, which is the horse that Beerbaum introduced to me and he

is my top horse at the time being. I qualified with him for the 2014 World Equestrian Games and hopefully he will be the horse I will ride there.

What are your most memorable achievements or top shows you were proud to compete at?

After I started competing in 2009 in Europe I had the opportunity to participate in many shows. Memorable ones would be the GCT in Valkeswaard and Chantilly, shows in Maastricht, Poznan, Dortmund, Geestern, Steinhagen, Cervia, Salzburg, Porto, Kapallen, and Zandhoven. Proud moments I would have to say were winning the Grand Prix of Alexandria and being placed 2nd and 3rd at 2013 CSI2*-W Amman. Coming in 3rd place with Goldex in the Porto accumulator, 8th in the Grand Prix of Roosendal, and

4th in the Roosendal qualifier were also great moments, along with top 10 finishes in the Grand Prix of Geestern and the Abu Dhabi GCT, 6th place at 2014 Sharjah CSI3*-W, 4th place at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, 8th place at 2014 Abu Dhabi CSI3*-W, 6th place at 2013 Abu Dhabi CSI3*-W with Connaught, 5th and 7th place at 2013 Doha CSI4*-W with Connaught, as well as 1st at 2014 Cairo CSI1*. I guess they are all memorable!

What are your hopes and plans for the future?

My plan for the future is to go to the World Championships in Normandy and to compete well and hopefully get a medal, but I also want to go to the Olympics and get a medal, which has been my dream since I was a child. 🙏