

IT WAS AN HONOUR TO HOST THE
11TH PAN ARAB GAMES AT OUR NEW
CAIRO EQUESTRIAN STADIUM

SHOW JUMPING COURSES

at the 11th
Pan Arab Games

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International Course Designer

Several factors helped the show to be a great success such as the very good footing for the main riding arena, and the way it was maintained during the event helped the course designers to go as tough technically as needed.

The show lasted for 4 days with 1 day off before the last day that was scheduled to be the final for the individual classification. On the first day, a technically moderate speed class table C was built; the most important thing in the class was to construct alternatives for the fences and also give space for the riders to test the ground and speed among fences.

On the second day, the Nation's Cup or the final for the team competition was held. It had two identical rounds where

the riders jumped 2 similar tracks. Subsequently in this type of class, riders should try to keep their horses fit for the second round. It is however tough to maintain a high total of team points due to the pressure. Accordingly, every rider carries the total faults of all the team which creates more stress and pressure as opposed to individual riding. As a result, the course designers make this class more challenging; they always try to balance it between pressure and technicalities in the course.

After a day of rest for the riders and their horses, the final classification for the individual medal was held, and having rested, the horses were more fit and in a better condition than the second day. The courses on this day were extremely



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technical courses and they were big enough as any big grand prix courses in Europe. The class was 150/155 cm in two non-identical rounds and so the riders jumped two different courses starting with a sturdy first round to a conclusive second round that would bring forth the gold medallist.

COURSE ANALYSIS:

On the second day the Nation's Cup course was a difficult 145/150 cm class. As seen on Fig (1), the course started by an oxer coming out of the corner and facing the spectators which distracted the horses not allowing them to fully

concentrate, therefore leading to a possible 4 faults on the first fence.

Number 2 was an upright facing the in-gate which made the horses move in too close to a possible knock-down.

Number 3 was an easy oxer that had open space facing it, on the other hand, adding golden poles to the oxer created some difficulty for the horses to pin it well. A wall (number 4) leading to number 5, a triple bar with a distance of 21.50 meters in between, made the horses draw back a little; the distance for the triple bar grew longer which caused some riders to fall on the back bar.

Number 6 displayed the first combination in the course; a double combination (oxer – upright) 2 strides with a distance of

10.80 meters which is almost normal for this height, except the entrance of the combination was coming from a broken line, a possible 6 or 7 strides. Most of the riders put 7 strides and as a result they approached the wide oxer slightly slow where the distance inside the combination grew longer.

Fence 7 was a plank with two flat cups which made it too fragile coming to fence 8, a pretty wide oxer.

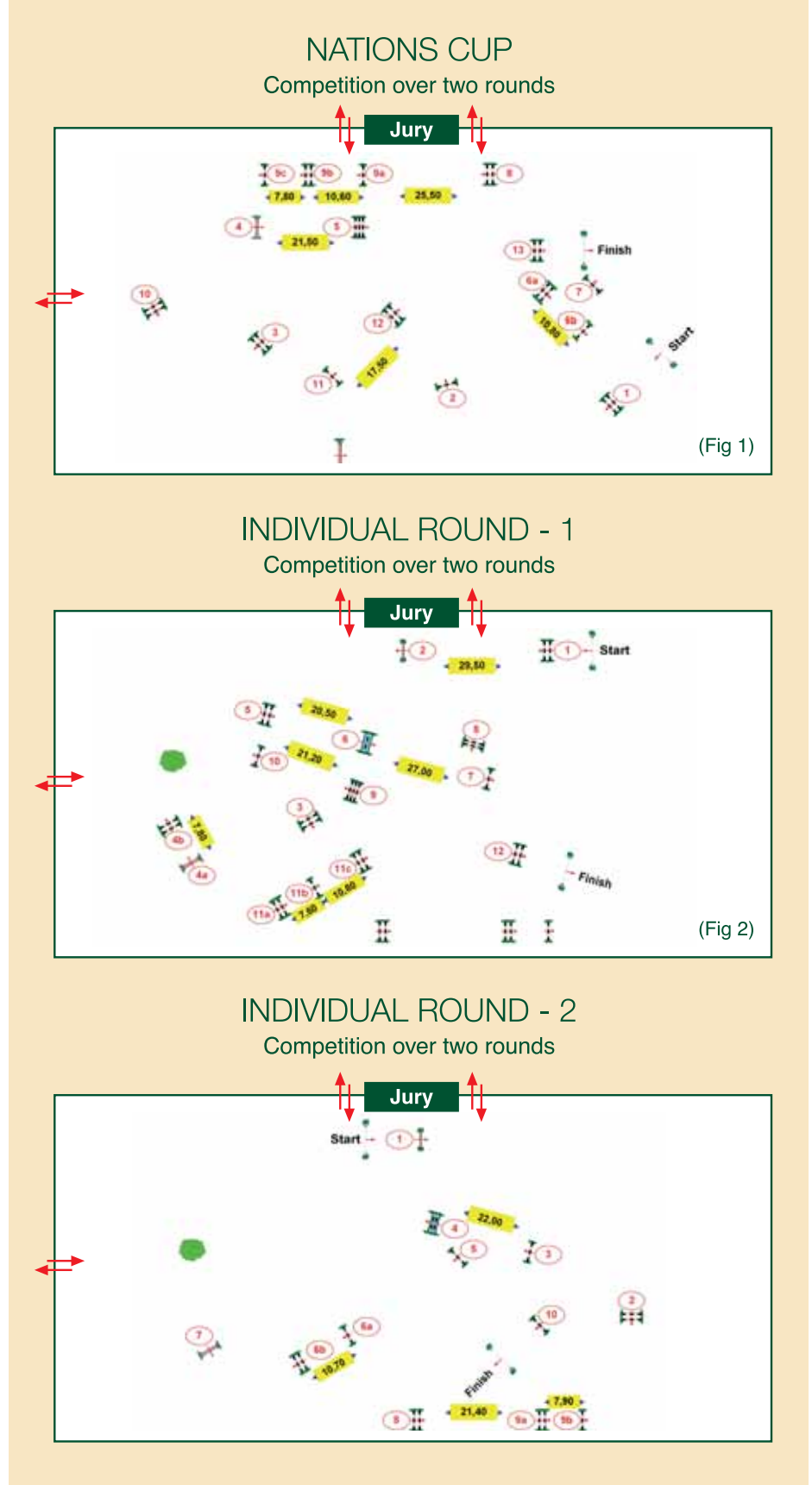
The second combination in the course (fence 9), was a triple combination: (upright – oxer - upright) two strides (10.60 meters), to a one stride (7.80 meters). The distance to the combination was 25.50 meters, a long 6 or short 7 strides; going on a long 6 (which was the choice of most riders) brought the horses in too close to the oxer (the second element of combination) and consequently left the horses too far from the final upright where they were sometimes too far to clear it.

Fence 10 comes too fast as well after the combination and short 4 strides (17.50 meters) between 11 and 12 on a curve that leads to the last big oxer of the course.

On the last day the first round was technically tricky. As seen in Fig (2), the related distance between fences 1 and 2 (oxer – wall) is 29.50 meters giving the rider the option of riding them in 7 long strides or 8 short ones. The wall (fence 2) is just beside the in-gate prompting the horses to lose a little of their focus going on to fence 3.

Fence 4 was the first double combination: (wall – oxer) 1 stride 7.80 meters, which is a long 1 stride. The wall led the horses to slightly draw back making the distance much longer; hence the rider had to put extra pressure on the horse before the double and in between. Some riders didn't put enough pressure in between so they landed on the back pole of the oxer.

The oxer, fence 5, was also very technical due to it coming very fast out of a very sharp turn, and a lot of horses knocked down the back pole of the oxer, and then went to 5, the liver pool, with an upright on top going in 5 short strides at 20.50



meters. Going on to fence 7, a 155 cm upright in a 27 meter distance, which is a tricky distance because it's a long 6 or short 7 strides, the riders had to be extremely decisive.

Fence 8 was a narrow oxer coming out of the turn then going on 6 strides to fence 9, the triple bar, but in a broken line going in a related 21.20 meters which is short 5 strides to fence 10, another 155 cm

upright.

The last triple combination, fence 11, came on at the end of the course where the horses were tired, less focused and just about ready to finish. It was an oxer - upright – oxer, a short 1 stride (7.60) meters to a long 2 strides (10.80 meters) where the tired horses had to stretch to cover the oxer on the last fence of the course number 12, another wide oxer.