



Mohamed Medhat Abdelkareem



Yehia Wagih Atallah

The Egyptian NATIONAL CUP

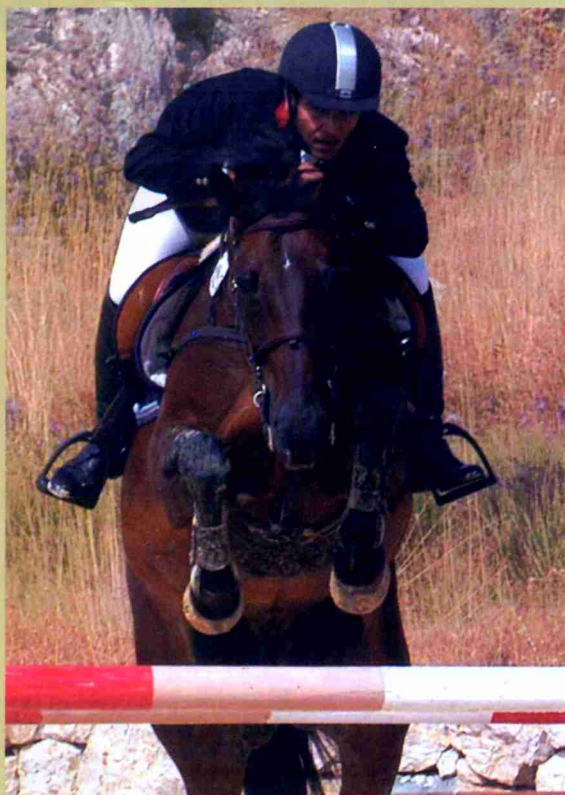
By Karim Habashi

The final round of the 'Egyptian Cup' was held at King's Ranch. It is the first time that we virtually have two National Champions, as another classification, based on points accumulated throughout the season were concluded the previous weekend. The 'Egyptian Cup' is perhaps closer in its format to most National Championships held in Europe, with the one controversial exception that is, in our finals a rider is allowed an unlimited number of horses.

This year our Points Champion for the A2 class is the very persistent Claudia El Nafarawy, followed by Mohamed El Boraei & 'Stylish', and Yehya Wagih & 'Lion Star'. As for the A1, the winner was Mohamed Sabry, better known as 'Dokdok', with 'Petite Donna', closely followed by Alaa Maysara & 'Carta'.

The 'Egyptian Cup' was held over 3 consecutive days with the main decisive factor being the faults carried till the end of the last round on day 3. Strong nerves were required as well as experience and fitness for both horse and rider. The A2 was won by Alaa Maysara & 'Casper'; certainly a great achievement for a horse that has had its share of problems. They were followed by Mohamed El Boraei & 'Stylish' and Yehya Wagih & 'Lion Star'.

As for the A1 class, the leading rider was Mohamed Medhat & 'Paraguay'



Alaa Maysara on Carta

for the last day of the show. Unfortunately they gathered 21 faults with exhaustion & pressure definitely taking their toll there. It was no surprise that the combination that came first on the three days of the Dubai International Show in January came again on top here. Boraei & Nirvana produced perfectly consistent rounds and definitely deserved their victory. Second only by a 1 fault difference was Alaa Maysara & 'Carta', and third came Islam Eid & 'Cupid' having an excellent end of competition after a difficult first day.

This year's finals were successful mainly because of the dedication of riders, owners and grooms. Too bad there was not many applauding the excellent performances in the ring. Is show jumping losing in popularity?! Probably not if you look at the increasing numbers of registered horses and riders. Ashraf Abdallah built well-designed and demanding courses with the same material that has been used for the last four years. We saw some very talented riders getting the most out of above-average horses with the huge success of the new Arab League and shows like the ones in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Would it be possible we do more to be better prepared to face the challenge posed by our Arab neighbours? ■

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Mohamed Ragab Jr. on Milky; www.mohamedragabjr.com

Results

LEVEL A1

RIDER

Mohamed Sabry
Alaa Maysara
Mohamed Sabry
Ahmed Bassyoni
Islam Eid
Claudia El Nafarawy

HORSE

Petite Donna
Carta
Calendo
Temptation
Sphinx
Lucky Luke 2

CLUB

Ferousia/ARMY
Police Sports Union
Ferousia/ARMY
Ferousia/ARMY
Ferousia/GEZIRA
Sporting

LEVEL A2

RIDER

Claudia El Nafarawy
Mohamed El Boraei
Yehia Atallah
Mohamed El Boraei
Alaa Maysara
Mohamed Ragab

HORSE

Beybars
Stylish
Lion Star
Lillie
Casper
Cylinio

CLUB

Sporting
Ferousia/ARMY
Gezira Sporting
Ferousia/ARMY
Police Sports Union
Ferousia/ARMY

LEVEL B

RIDER

Claudia El Nafarawy
Hady Gabr
Kareem Asal
Sameh El Dahan
Kareem El Sobki
Yasir Asr

HORSE

Crepe Suzette
Cloudy Night
Covanto
Timid Heart
Return
Legatte

CLUB

Sporting
Sporting Association
Sporting Association
Police Sports Union
Ferousia/ARMY
Ferousia/ARMY