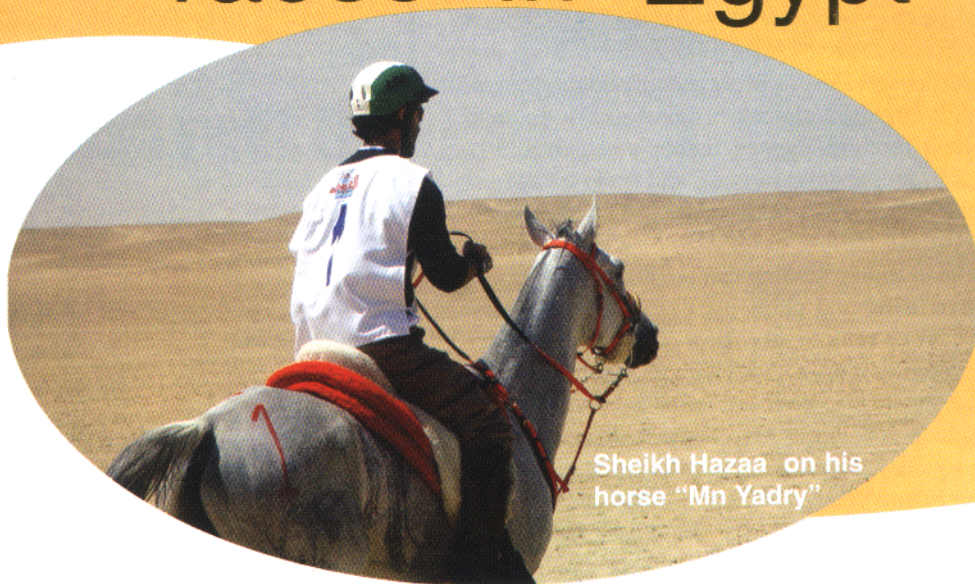


The Joy of ...endurance races in Egypt



Sheikh Hazaa on his horse "Mn Yadry"

The 4th Al-Ahram Endurance Championship

April 8th - While a second could break a horse's career at Sakkara Country Club, it just meant more waiting in the midday sun for the racers to finish the 4th International Pyramids Endurance competition. Only horse gossip, sand and a slight breeze to contemplate; there certainly were a lot of audience and reporters from all over the Arab world.

The 120 Km race started at 6:00 a.m. to get a jump on the heat, and was divided to five different loops. Five competitors were from Jordan, Four from Emirates, one from Italy, Five from Kuwait, one from Chili, and around thirty four from Egypt. The race was organized by the International Equestrian Federation, the Egyptian Equestrian Federation, and Al-Ahram Al-Araby news paper.

Sheikh Hazaa Bn Zaid Al Nahyan of Abu Dhabi, once again demonstrated his exemplary horseman-

ship when he steered reflex to victory in this 120 endurance ride on his mare "Mn Yadry". As expected by most of the audience, Sheikh Hazaa won first place followed by two of his own Abu Dhabi's team, Abdullah Khamis Ali, and Adnan Sultan Saif, in the second and third place. This was the Sheikh's forth time to participate in an endurance race in Egypt. His mare 'Mn Yadry' won the Triple Crown competition in Emirates, she also won all the endurance races she entered except one from which she was disqualified as a result of an injury. According to Sheikh Hazaa "endurance horses should get a lot of training and participate in as much races as possible so as to get his mind acquainted with the fact of being patient".

Furthermore, commenting on the race's organization, Mr. Mohamed Rashid Bn Ghedayer, head of Dubai's Endurance Races Committee, "the race is



The first five winners during the race

The Vet Check



very well organized, from the minute we set foot in the airport to the race itself, the equipment, and the ushering, it's all up to the highest standards. The Egyptian Equestrian Federation and the International Equestrian Federation, they are all cooperating in the success of the race". Moreover, According to Mr. Rashid, for a horse to win an endurance race he has to have a heart rate of approx. 64 beats / minute or less, a big heart, big lungs, light frames, and thin skin which dissipates heat.

After the end of the race, Eng. Abdel Fatah Ragab, President of the EEF, said "of coarse it was expected that the best rider would be sheikh Hazaa, I expected him to win. As for the Egyptian riders, I expected them to come up 8th & 9th, but they came up 7th & 8th, which is in fact a very good progress". The Egyptian federation has a structured plan for the Egyptian endurance riders. The Federation already appointed a professional French trainer and is planning to get the Egyptian riders qualified for the world championship in 2005 taking place in Dubai ■



Dr. Sufian Al-Alamy and the UAE's crew during the race.



Dilip Das (Vet Gate coord.), Abdul Aziz (ground Jury), Gen. Samy Negm El Din (Int. Jury), Colonel (Dr.) V.K. Bhatnaghr (int. Vet), and Nassar Yousef (I.T).



Ahmed Kharabsha, Walid Al-Asaf (head of the Jordanian Endurance Race Association), and Khaled Abd Al-rasoul.



Wael Al-Aotaby, Abdallah Hamady, Abdallah Al-Alakhfaly, and Hamoud Al-Jeneaby.



Osama Thuria, Al-Ahram Al-Araby's Editor in Chief, & Eng. Abd El-Fatah Ragab, President of the EEF.



Marion, Abdullah, with friends from France.