

The Road To ... Athens

Egypt has had a great history in the field of equestrian showjumping. That was between the 1950s and 1960s. since that time there definitely has been great achievers, yet only individual ones. The idea of a strong competitive team to represent Egypt has become more of an illusive dream. Several explanation have been offered to "why" this sport is suffering from a so called recession. Actually "management" in the global perspective is one of the factors or may be a key factor that was given as a cause that would dramatically influence the rise and fall in the sport's level.

We had a chance to investigate this issue with Eng. Hisham Hattab the Vice President of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation (EEF) and he remarked, that it is a fact that since the election of the current Federation, there has been a plan - a well structured one- to bring up the level of this sport. Eng. Hattab goes on to explain there has been put forward a training program for the Olympic Games in Athens 2004 including the following:

- 1-Developing of the coaching system;
Executive coach, assistant coach and team surgeon.
- 2-Development of the competition system nationally.
- 3-More exposure to international competition.
- 4-Team building.

In a four years period, it is essential to create a team, out of the various riders and horses according to the results achieved on the national and international levels.

- 5-Choice of horses for international representation based on:

Age, experience, scope, soundness, general health conditions, tolerance to transport and results achieved.

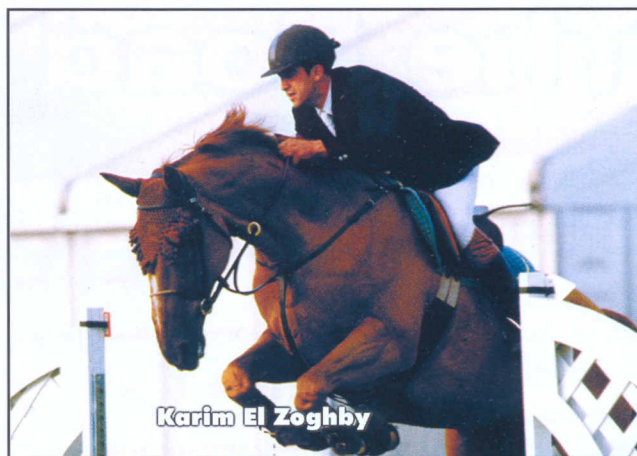
- 6-Development of the facilities complimenting the sport:

Better grounds, better farriers, more elaborates shapes of fences (jumps), using international standards of course building (safety cups, etc..), better feeding for the horses and better veterinary services.





Andre Sakakini



Karim El Zoghby

7-Considering the psychological conditions of the rider in terms of:

Technical knowledge, physical/nervous bearing capacity, tactical discipline and life style.

8-Creating closer similarities in the design of the national courses to that on the international scene.

For that particular point, we conducted an interview with Mr. Rob Jansen who is the Dutch course designer appointed by the EEF:

Interview with Mr. Rob Jansen by Ahmed Talaat

What are the biggest shows that you had worked in?

I worked in many big shows, as the Volvo World Cup finals 1996, the Derby of Hamburg 2000, the European championship - Arnhem 2001, CHIO Aachen 2001.

Is there a difference between the courses that you design here in Egypt and the courses that you design in Holland for the same levels?

Yes sure, the courses in Holland include more technical difficulties.

What are the policies that you take in consideration when designing courses here in Egypt?

I keep in mind two major things when I design a course over here.

The first thing is saving the horse that is jumping this course.

Second, gradually lifting the technical standard of showjumping courses in a period of three years, to end up the same like in Europe, even if I am not the course designer in a later stage.

Who are the riders that you think are successfully managing all of your technical difficulties up till now?

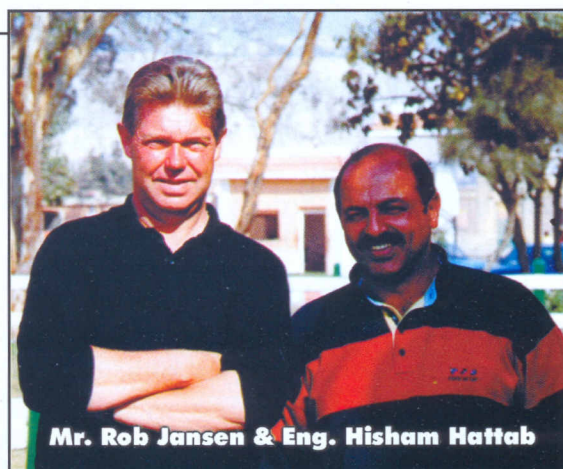
There is not a special rider, but I think the riders now understand my courses and are better coping with it.

Do you think we have a team of riders and horses that can go to the Olympics in Athens 2004?

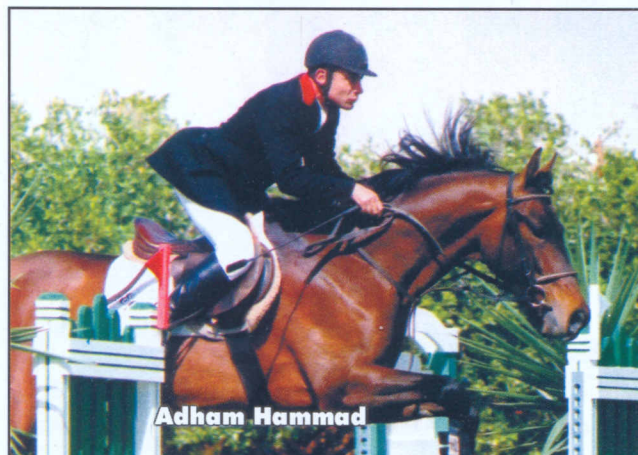
The horses in Egypt are very good but I don't know if they can go to the Olympics or not. You have good riders in Egypt that if are provided with good horses in the next three years, can go to the Olympics. There are a lot of horses that competed and won in the Olympic Games or even sometimes in the World Cup that never won a Grand Prix. An example, Jeroen Dubbeldam's "De Sjiem", Ulrich Kirchhoff's "Jus de Pomme" and others.

What are the tricks you use in your courses that most of riders failed to pass?

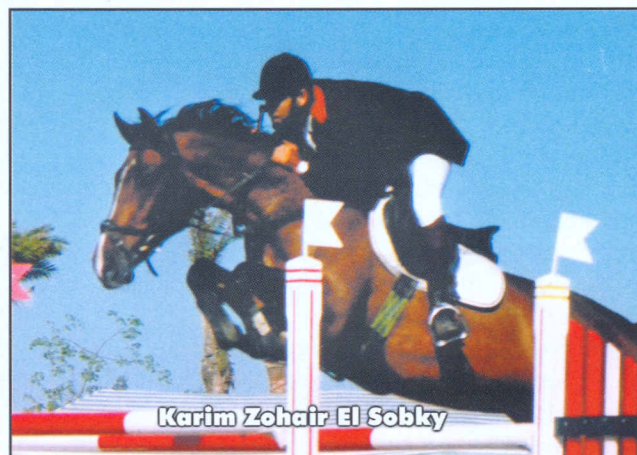
There are no special tricks in my courses, but when I design any course, I always play with the riders abilities and not with the horses. There are riders who have a good feeling for their horses, others pick up after a while and there are lots who ride against their horses.



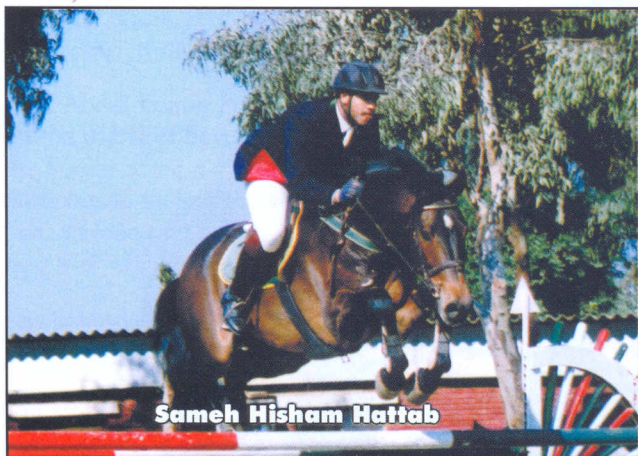
Mr. Rob Jansen & Eng. Hisham Hattab



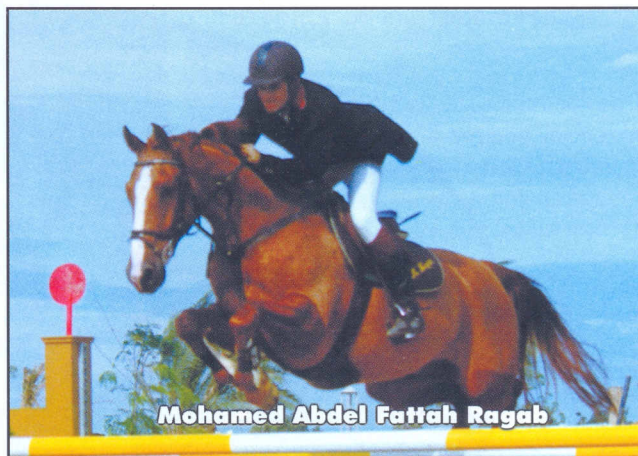
Adham Hammad



Karim Zohair El Sobky



Sameh Hisham Hattab



Mohamed Abdel Fattah Ragab



Mohamed Sabry



Mohamed El Boraie

Finally, we thank the Federation in the person of Eng. Hisham Hattab for their rigorous measures of planning to uplift the equestrian showjumping sport and we wish them lots of luck in turning all the plans to reality.

International News

TOP TEN FINAL Beerbaum Is The Undisputed World Number One

The first ever Top Ten Final in Jumping was held Saturday 8 December in the frame of CSI-W Geneva (SUI).

The participation field was to include the first ten riders in the FEI/Gandini World Jumping Riders Rankings.

According to the formula developed by the International Jumping Riders Club, the Final was held over two rounds, without jump-off. The starting order of the first round was from No 10 to No 1 of the rankings and reverse order of the first round results in the second round.

Number One of the rankings since the beginning of 2001, Ludger Beerbaum confirmed his position and won this first ever World Top 10 Final, after two impeccable clear rounds on his 10 years old Hanoverian stallion Goldfever.

CHILDREN'S WORLD JUMPING FINAL

The Final of the 2001 FEI Children's International Jumping Series was organized by Mr. Eugene Mische (USA) and was held on the show grounds at Wellington Equestrian Centre, West Palm Beach, Florida (USA) from 28 November to 2 December.

Twenty-eight children aged between 12 and 14 years from twelve countries - FRA, BEL USA, ARG, RSA, LTU, RUS KSA, COL, BRA, JPN, MEX - competed for the awards.

All participants took part in two qualifying

competitions to establish the sixteen riders for the Final. The Final produced an exciting jump-off with four riders clear in the first round three American and one French.

Dottie Grubb (USA) riding Pistol Pete completed the jump-off with a clear round six seconds faster than the second placed rider Joshua Vanderveen (USA) on Bull Run Glen Ridge. Third and fourth places went to Elise Lesage (FRA) and Kristen Vanderveen (USA) respectively. Dottie Grubb is the daughter of former international show jumping riders Michelle and Tim Grubb (USA).

World-renowned courses designer Mr. Steve Stephens (USA) designed the courses. The 2002 Final will be held in Bogota (COL), in December 2002.

