

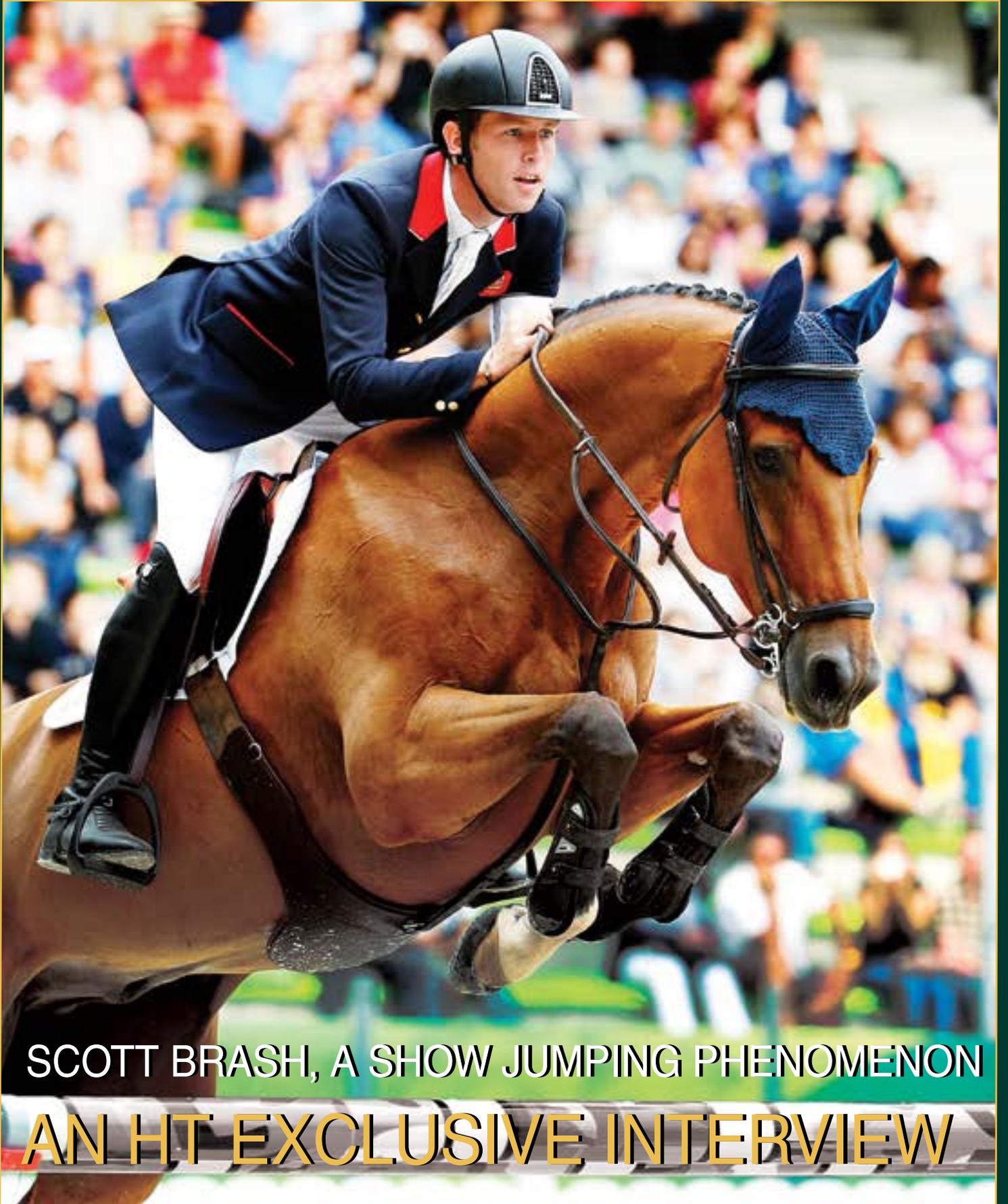
HORSE TIMES



no. 49

SPRING 2016

THE LEADING EQUESTRIAN MAGAZINE IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SCOTT BRASH, A SHOW JUMPING PHENOMENON

AN HT EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

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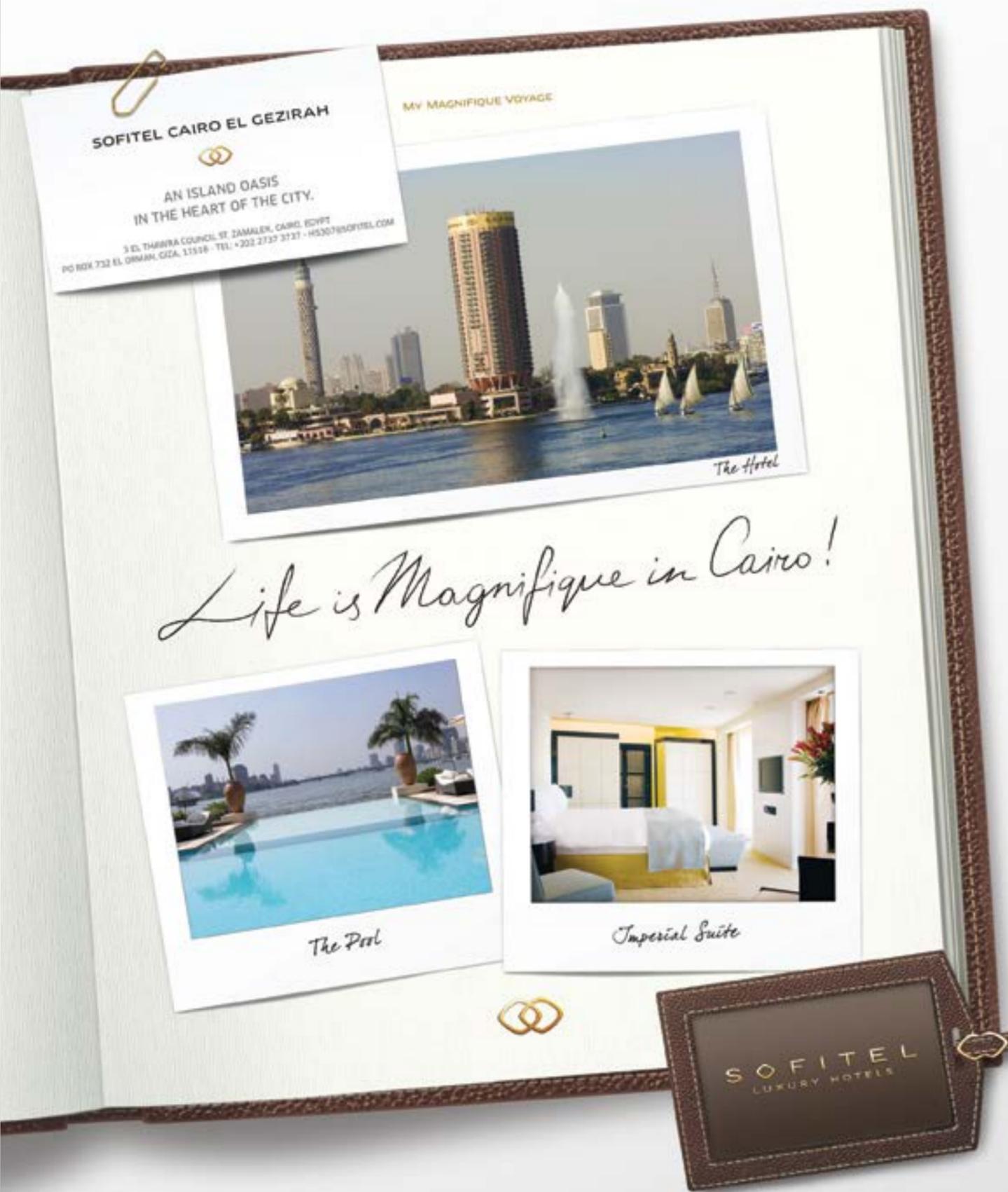


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Dear Readers and Followers,

An interesting quotation that inspires me says, "Persistence + Faith + Planning = Satisfactory Results."

So with plenty of faith, planning and hard work, HT proudly delivers our new issue, Issue 49, our Spring 2016 edition. Our sport revolves around our love and passion for horses; yet as this sport is driven by the people involved, HT brings to you the living stories of world

VIEW POINT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

renowned show jumper Scott Brash, Amr Gamal, Mohamed Taher Zeyada, French course designer Michel Ismalun, Suzanne & Julie, Josiane Hakiem, Zienab Kamel, Amina Ammar, Carine Shawky and Omar Ismail, and many others.

For something a little different, we bring you the fun and excitement of the Scottsdale Reining Classic and an in-depth report on the CHI AL SHAQAB and a glorious story of an extraordinary event. Another extraordinary event was the inaugural high-goal Dubai Challenge Cup polo event at the new Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club and a hot and heavy yet, friendly competition between Mashomack Polo Club and our very own Egyptian Polo Team under the gaze

of the Abu Sir Pyramids. On the creative side, follow our three part series on the Arabian horse in the art movement of Orientalism.

On the technical front, this issue presents loads of training tips on such important topics as your distance to the fence, collection in Dressage, and keeping you in tune with expert legal analysis involving the carriage of horses by air in our regular legal feature.

Finally, remember to check our biweekly coverage, HT Headlines on www.horsetimesegypt.com

Read and enjoy!

Sincerely,

Khaled Assem

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Permanent Press Ltd. Nicosia, Cyprus

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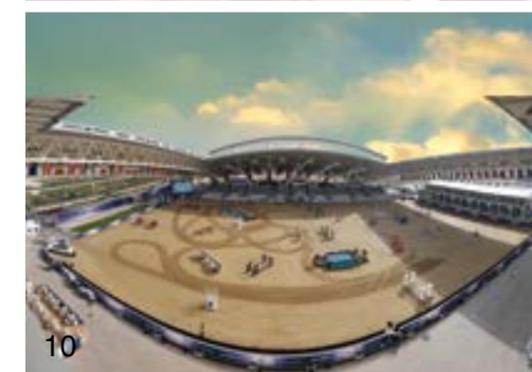


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A SHOW JUMPING PHENOMENON

SCOTT BRASH

By Aya Amr

WE AT HORSE TIMES ARE HONOURED TO SHOWCASE IN THIS ISSUE A LIVING LEGEND, THE LEGENDARY SCOTTISH SHOW JUMPER, SCOTT BRASH. THE SON OF A BUILDER, BRASH HAS PROVEN THAT HARD WORK AND PERSISTENCE GO ALL THE WAY – ALL THE WAY TO BRITISH TEAM GOLD AT THE 2012 OLYMPICS IN LONDON, THE PRESTIGIOUS ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE IN 2013 FOR SERVICES TO EQUESTRIANISM, OPENING UP 2016 AS HE HAS FOR THREE YEARS RUNNING IN THE NUMBER 1 SPOT, WITH THE 2016 RIO OLYMPICS IN HIS SIGHTS WITH THE FABULOUS HELLO SANCTOS, HORSE & HOUNDS' 2015 HORSE OF THE YEAR. SCOTT BRASH'S MOTTO IS "NEVER GIVE UP". HERE BRASH LETS US KNOW WHAT MAKES HIM TICK, WHAT MAKES HIM WIN.



Scott Brash and Hello Sanctos at the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2014 in Normandy

Let us start by asking who were the most influential trainers in your career?

When I first started off on my own at the age of 18, I went to train with Paul Barker. I also learned a lot from his mother; she has installed great ground work in me as a rider.

Then, of course John Lennon; he is a great trainer and has great knowledge. He really helped me evolve as a rider. I think those two trainers have had the biggest influence on me.

Have you ever trained in the US? And what are your thoughts on their training system?

I haven't, and I think that their training system is different; however, that doesn't mean it's wrong. What works for some people might not work for others and vice versa. At the end what really counts are the results and it doesn't matter how you get there.

How do you manage to stay in the top levels and resist the stress, psychological and technical factors?

I think staying focused on my job all the time really helps. Also, it is key to have a very good team behind you along with good horses. If you can have that and keep everything consistent you will manage to stay among the top riders.

How did you come across Hello Sanctos?

That actually is a funny story; by the end of 2011 my owners called me and told me that they want to buy me a horse for the London Olympics. They had Hello Sanctos in mind and so I went to try him at Katharina Offel's where he had been ridden. He hadn't done very much for three months so it was quite hard to try him because he wasn't 100% competition fit. It was quite a tense trial.

When I got off the horse I called Phil and gave him my opinion and that was it and just like that Sanctos arrived at my stables. Then I flew him off to Florida because I wanted to take my time with him and I thought Florida was the best place to do that.

Would you aim to buy a horse that is ready for the Olympics or produce a quality horse up to the Olympic level?

It is important to have both horses; you need to

have a variety and you should be able to build your own horses up to a high level but at the same time if you want to be on the top you have to buy a great horse.

Do you have a certain daily training routine?

Training is very important, you need to work on yourself all the time and always try to be better. I don't have a specific routine that I do on daily basis; I always like to change, one day we are training indoors, another day we are outdoors and another we are in Europe. We like to have different routines each week.

When you face any difficulties, from whom do you seek advice?

Most of the time I trust my feeling. You have to understand your horse really well and know what is going wrong and how to change it. In my opinion there is no one who will understand what is going on better than yourself. You shouldn't ask too many people because no one will know your horse and his details better than you do.

Do you believe in mental fitness work?

I think you shouldn't focus on one thing day in and day out, every once in a while you have to get your brain off and do something else mentally; it can't just be competitions all the time.

Personally, what keeps my brain hungry is having a different plan for each and every horse and staying focused. Also, I like to give my brain some rest and play golf once a month or do an activity that will refresh my mind.

How is Hello Sanctos when he is at home?

He's a very clever horse, he knows his abilities, and he knows that he is the king of our stable. At home he is laid-back and relaxed, does everything at his own pace and we have to cope with it. But when he enters the arena, he comes to life and he knows that this is a competition and he wants to win.

What is your dream?

My dream is to win the individual gold medal at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro; I gave Hello Sanctos a good rest and just started working him a week ago, we are doing our best to be well prepared for the Olympics and going after my dream. 🏆

Photos by Jacques Toffi



Scott Brash and Hello Sanctos at the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games 2014 in Normandy

CHI AL SHAQAB 2016

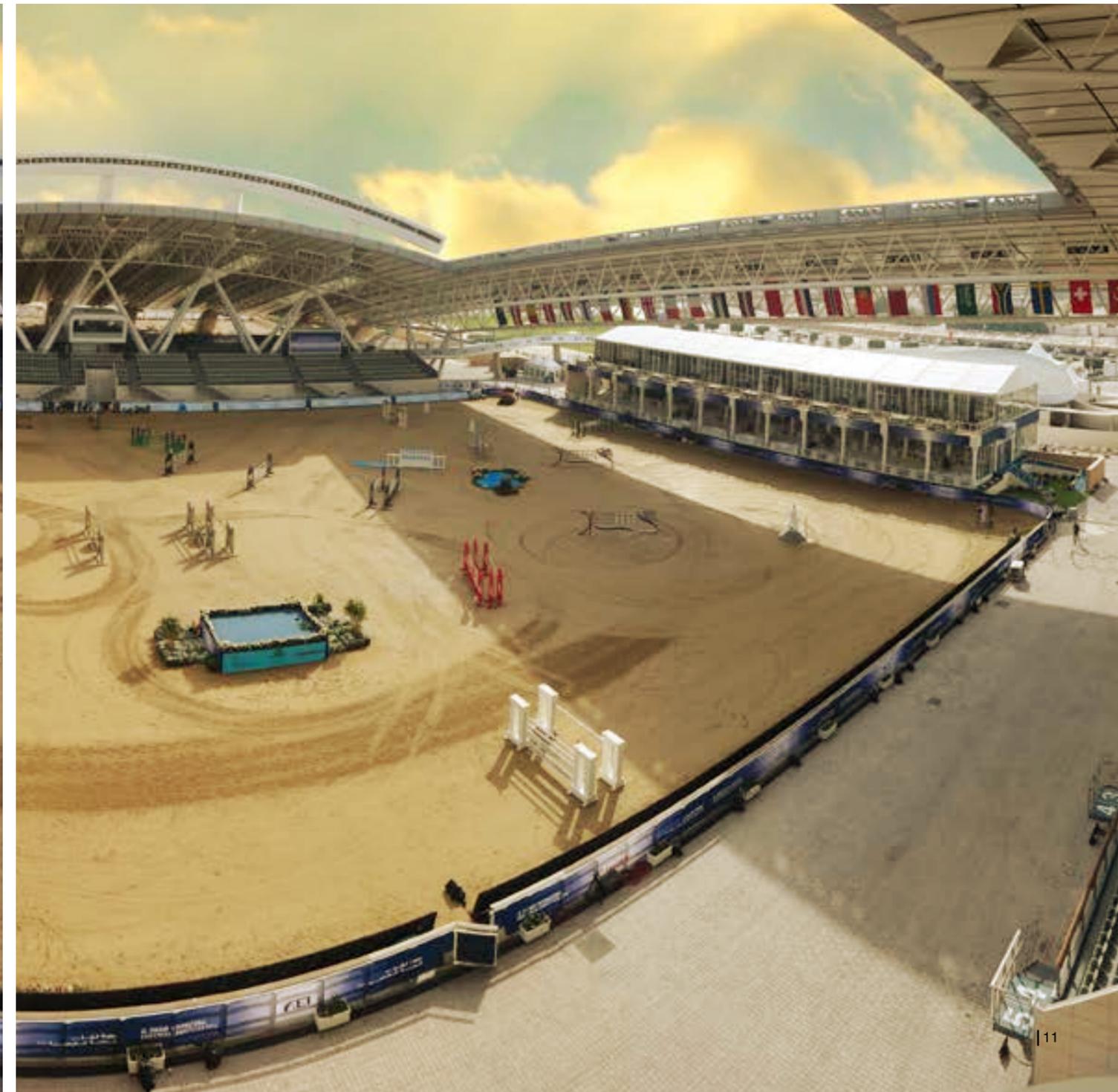
AN EXTRAORDINARY EVENT IN AN EXTRAORDINARY SETTING

By Aya Amr

© CHI AL SHAQAB



The main arena at CHI AL SHAQAB.





The pony centre at Al Shaqab



Horse walker at Al Shaqab



Young horses at Al Shaqab

QATAR

Qatar and its capital, Doha, have a great deal to offer including its weather, geographical location and safe and peaceful society with a rich wealth of Arabic culture and Islamic traditions.

When combined with the unique collection of some of the world's finest sports venues, these national assets provide a contemporary opportunity designed to attract international sport federations, national sport associations, and global sport event companies.

The international sport opportunities that are created for Qatar and its population are almost too numerous to mention. With the many events that Qatar has hosted, its people have benefited from an influx of

leading sport and business professionals to help shape the aspirations of the nation and also to deliver unprecedented sporting results. This year Qatar was the host of the CHI AL SHAQAB competition for the fourth year running.

ABOUT AL SHAQAB

Since its foundation in 1992, Al Shaqab has had a mission to build on Qatar's rich Arabian horse heritage and a vision of turning the country into a leading global centre for equine professionals. Global leadership has not only meant preserving, improving and promoting the Arabian horse breed, but also engaging the community in this unique, historic and cultural sport.

Al Shaqab was born when HH Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Emir, located the Arabian breeding farm at the landmark battle site of Al Shaqab where his ancestor, Sheikh Jassim bin Mohammed Al Thani, led the Qataris against the Ottomans in 1893 at Al Rayyan in a pivotal battle towards independence. The Al Shaqab facility and its top three studs were named in his honour.

Those three stallions, namely Gazal Al Shaqab, Al Adeed Al Shaqab and Marwan Al Shaqab, were raised as World Champions, and alongside their offspring. They enhance the pedigree of Arabian horses not only in Qatar, but around the world. In 2004, Al Shaqab became a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development to continue its mission to promote the

breeding and showing of Arabian horses, and to provide educational and competitive opportunities in the equestrian arts.

Today, Al Shaqab's remarkable facilities, which are distinctively designed in the shape of a horseshoe, cover 98,000 square metres. With a state-of-the-art Main Arena comprising both an indoor and outdoor venue capable of holding over 5,000 spectators, Al Shaqab is part of Qatar's growing reputation on the world stage that showcases its ability to host major international sports events at the highest level.

The Equestrian Centre also encompasses a number of other facilities, including the Breeding and Show Centre, the Emiri Stables, the Endurance Stables, an Equine Education Centre and an Equine Hospital.



Horse Massager at Al Shaqab.



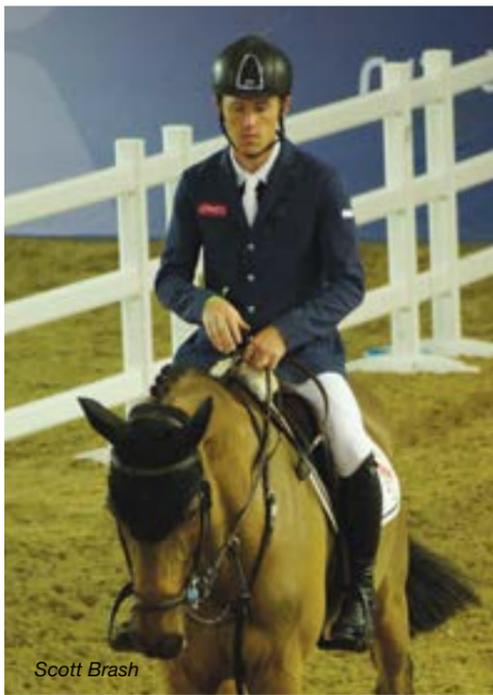
Al Shaqab facility.



Swimming pool at Al Shaqab.



Bertram Allen.



Scott Brash



Karim El Zoghby



Hani Bisharat.



Abdullah AlSharbatly.



Jan Tops.



Noora Al Qauod.



Fahd El Eid.



Pius Schwizer.



Sheikh Ali Al Thani.



Khalid El Eid.



Michelle Grimes.



Abdelkebir Ouaddar.



Kamal Bahamdan.



Bassem Mohammed



Ali Al Khorafi



Ibrahim Hani Bisharat.



Shady Samir.



Daniel Deusser & First Class van Eeckelghem.



Christian Ahlmann & Codex One.



Nicola Philippaerts & Zilverstar T.

Al Shaqab, which is firmly part of Doha's growing reputation as a modern, cosmopolitan city that still respects and cherishes its heritage, has helped the country's focus on hosting major international sports events of the highest calibre become a reality.

SHOW JUMPING

Out of all equestrian disciplines, jumping is one of the best-known. In CHI AL SHAQAB, the Course Designer, Frank Rothenberger, wanted to test the riders' skills and abilities as well as those of the horses. His courses were very technical with various combinations to determine the best combination of horse and rider on that day.

Expectations were very high; everyone was very

excited to know who will clinch the title in Doha when only five riders were able to go through to the jump off of the 1.60m Grand Prix and consequently all were placed to win the total prize money of 500,000 Euros.

It was an all-German podium when Germany's Ludger Beerbaum clinched first place, Germany's Daniel Deusser was in the runner up spot and Germany's Christian Ahlmann was in third place; which left Portugal's Luciana Diniz and Belgium's Nicola Philippaerts in fourth and fifth place.

In the CSI3* final, with total prize money of 36,000 Euros, the trainee performed on that day better than his trainer when Saudi Arabia's Khaled Abdulrahman Almoby got first place and his trainer Egypt's Saed

Saad got second place. Saudi Arabia was on fire with three placings in the final as third place went to Saudi Arabia's Ramzy Hamad Al Duhami, fourth place to France's Frédéric David and fifth place to Saudi Arabia's Nasser Albagami.

DRESSAGE

The competition was very challenging between the top dressage riders with a double win for the Olympic rider from Sweden, Patrik Kittel, in both the Grand Prix and the Grand Prix freestyle to music.

Second place in the Grand Prix went to the World Cup finalist, Germany's Jessica von Bredow-Werndl, Ireland's Judy Reynolds was in third, Sweden's Silver Medallist at the Swedish Championships in 2011,

Rose Mathisen in fourth place and Netherlands' Katja Gevers had to settle for fifth place; with total prize money of 40,000 Euros.

The placings of the Grand Prix freestyle to music differed a little when Ireland's Judy Reynolds got the runner up spot, in third place was Germany's Jessica von Bredow-Werndl, Netherlands' Katja Gevers in fourth place and Sweden's Rose Mathisen in fifth place; with total prize money of 100,000 Euros.

PARA-DRESSAGE

With eyes on the total prize money of 4,400 Euros, all the riders wanted to do their best to win; Republic of South Africa's Philippa Johnson-Dwyer was able to clinch first place, Denmark's Susanne Jensby



Luciana Diniz & Fit For Fun 13.



Saed Saad & Triple S.



Ludger Beerbaum & Chiara.



Astrid Neumayer and Rodriguez 4



Elena Sidneva and Romeo-Star

Sunesen got second place, Norway's Ann Cathrin Lübbe was in third, Netherlands' Lotte Krijnsen in fourth and finally Austria's Bernd Brugger in fifth place.

The winner, Philippa Johnson-Dwyer (RSA) had this to say:

"You can really feel that the nerves have settled on the third day of competition and everyone looks forward to the freestyle competition all week. The pressure is always on when you walk into the arena because the standard of riding is so high here at CHI AL SHAQAB. My horse Louis is an extraordinary horse but I have to work hard to get the most out

of him. I chose my choreography before I chose the music but I had a rough idea of the type of rhythm that would complement my test. I'm looking forward to competing in the Paralympics in Rio this year and I'm so happy to have had a successful outing here in Qatar."

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT, Mr. Fahad Saad Al Qahtani:

Under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Al Thani and Her Excellency Sheikha Al-Mayassa Bint Hamad Al Thani, we are proud to present the fourth annual CHI AL SHAQAB competition.

The 2016 edition of this prestigious equine event, which was inaugurated in 2013, includes four days of Jumping and Dressage to Para-Dressage, family activities and much more. The beauty, elegance and skills displayed by both horses and riders during CHI AL SHAQAB is a delight to behold, and I am honoured to assert that this is an experience you will remember for years to come. I would also like to thank our partners and sponsors for their part in raising the profile of CHI AL SHAQAB. Without your support, this event would not have reached the extraordinary level of distinction for which it is now known.

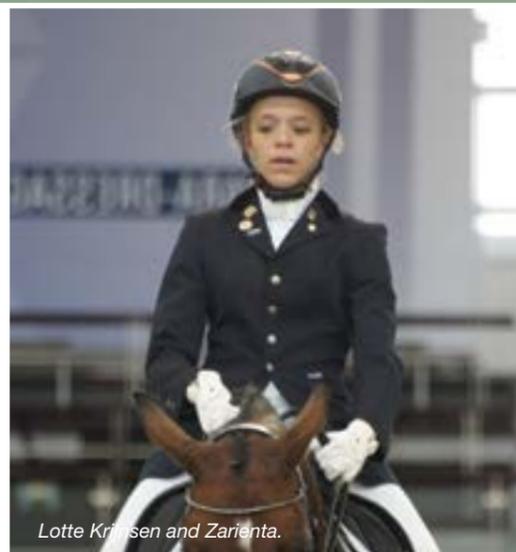
A NOTE FROM THE MEDIA AND BROADCAST MANAGER, Mr. Fahad Abdulla Al Hajri:

It is my privilege to welcome you to the fourth annual CHI AL SHAQAB competition here in Doha, Qatar. Since its inception in 2013, CHI AL SHAQAB has received increasing international interest and audience participation, and has been covered in the media in over 80 countries around the world. I would like to thank the media for playing an essential role in showcasing the skills, showmanship and elegance of this competition and making it one of the most watched equestrian events in recent years. I would also like to thank our partners and sponsors for their continuous effort.

Photos by HORSE TIMES



James Dwyer and Fleurette van de Kreungel



Lotte Krijnsen and Zarienta



Philippa Johnson-Dwyer and Lord Louis



Media and Broadcast Manager, Mr. Fahad Abdulla Al Hajri; President of Al Shaqab, Mr. Fahad Saad Al Qahtani; Germany's Christian Ahlmann; Germany's Daniel Deusser; Germany's Ludger Beerbaum; President of Ground Jury, Stephan Ellenbruch and the Course Designer, Frank Rothenberger.

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THE INAUGURAL DUBAI CHALLENGE CUP 2016

FIELD OF DREAMS

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME

By Bridget McArdle McKinney



Zedan vs. Edrees

IT HAS BECOME A CLICHÉ TO TALK ABOUT SKYSCRAPERS, EVENTS, CARS, JETS AND MOTOR CRAFTS, AND CELEBRITIES IN DUBAI IN BREATHLESS HYPERBOLE NORMALLY RESERVED FOR THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS – TALLEST! PRICIEST! BIGGEST! FASTEST! MOST FAMOUS! MOST GLAMOROUS! BUT NOW A NEW 18-GOAL CUP CONTEST, THE DUBAI CHALLENGE CUP, MIGHT WELL DESERVE SOME OF THIS HIGH PRAISE. ANNOUNCED ON 2 MARCH BY THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE 2016 DUBAI GOLD CUP SERIES, THIS NEW TOURNAMENT WAS DUBAI'S HIGH-GOAL POLO SEASON CLOSER, ENDING THIS SEASON WITH SOME OF THE FIERCEST BATTLES ON THE FINEST TURF IN THE WORST WEATHER AT WHAT WILL BE THE NEWEST AND MOST LUXURIOUS POLO AND EQUESTRIAN FACILITY, THE HABTOOR POLO RESORT & CLUB, CATERED AND HOSTED IN THE MOST ELEGANT VIP MARQUEE BY THE PRESTIGIOUS ST. REGIS HOTEL AND QUENCHED, OF COURSE, BY THE FINEST CHAMPAGNE, BOLLINGER. WHEW! SEVEN SUPERLATIVES IN ONE SENTENCE AND WE WERE THERE TO WITNESS IT ALL.

I had been planning to go over to cover the Dubai Gold Cup as I have many times before and at the same time take a look at the new polo facility everyone was talking about, but then suddenly the new Dubai Challenge Cup tournament appeared and I re-tooled my plans to catch this brand new high-goal event at a brand new polo facility – a two-for-one.

At the Cup announcement Mohammed Al Habtoor, founder of the Dubai Gold Cup Series and patron of Habtoor Polo, commended the prominent role played by His Highness Sheikh Maktoum Bin Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai, through his patronage of the Dubai Polo Gold Cup Series since its inception. He said that the introduction of the new tournament would add a new dimension to the Championship and build on the successes of the entire Series. "No words can describe our happiness with the introduction of the tournament," he said. "Our ambition has no limits."

Dubai Gold Cup Series

Al Habtoor founded the Dubai Gold Cup Series in 2009. Since then it has grown in tandem with the city of Dubai. The Dubai Open is divided into two tournaments: the McLaren Silver Cup and the Julius Baer Gold Cup, both played under the rules of the Hurlingham Polo Association (HPA) and both World Polo Tour-ranked tournaments.

It attracts polo stars from around the world, VIPs, celebrities as well as senior corporate executives from across the Gulf. Al Habtoor said, "The competition, which started with 10 goal handicap, has picked up momentum and evolved into an 18 goal handicap

ST. REGIS INTERNATIONAL CUP DUBAI CHALLENGE CUP 2016

18 GOAL HANDICAP



Bin Draï vs. UAE Polo



Patricio Neves - Edrees



Zedan vs. Habtoor Polo

competition in record time. This is down to the overwhelming desire of the participating teams and their owners who have backed the tournament for many years. They have all contributed to helping make Dubai a global polo destination.”

He also commended the role HH Sheikha Maitha Bint Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum has played in the sport. HH Sheikha Maitha regularly plays in the Dubai Gold Cup Series as well as other polo events as patron of the UAE Polo Team, which successfully took the Dubai Gold Cup this year.

“The presence of HH Sheikha Maitha Bint Mohammed in the Dubai Gold Cup Series has contributed to the promotion of polo in the UAE and encouraged more players to the sport. She inspires women and is a great role model,” he added.

Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club – Field of Dreams

“If you build it, they will come”....Through a nasty sandstorm navigating from a map helpfully provided by the tournament organisers we made our way to where we thought we should have been, only to find a bustling dusty construction site, heavy machinery, trucks, and teams of hard-hats. Once we threaded our way through the commotion, we found the fields and tried our best under the very hot and dusty conditions to situate ourselves for viewing the Semi-final.

While waiting for the start of the first Semi-final match, which was delayed by the weather, I took a long look around at the structures under construction surrounding the fields and began to imagine what the finished product would look like: the grand St. Regis Hotel with every room overlooking the fields, the bungalows, villas and equestrian facility, the sunshine which normally graces this region. It began to take shape in my imagination and I could see what it would be, a lush and lovely resort venue devoted to horses and the sport of polo. A polo-lover’s dream soon to come true.

And the Winners Are....

The Semi-Finals Despite the heat and dusty gusty conditions four great Semi-final teams waged battle for the two seats in the Final of the Dubai Challenge Cup 2016. I honestly thought that the first match would have to be called off for heat and wind, but UAE Polo Team and Bin Draï bravely mounted up and fought both the elements and each other. Despite two hard meetings with the turf by Bin Draï’s Tomas Iriarte, Bin Draï took the prize 9 goals to 6.

It has been said that the second Semi of the day was one of the best games of the entire season, with a superb level of polo in five thrilling chukkas, between Habtoor Polo and Zedan.

Habtoor Polo worked with perfect coordination and collaboration which is the only way to face down Zedan’s mighty 10-goaler Pablo Mac Donough, and reap a 11-9 victory, leaving Bin Draï and Habtoor Polo to vie for the St. Regis International Cup in the Finals.

The Finals: While the guests were protected from the chilly rain and drizzle with umbrellas, rugs and champagne in the elegant St. Regis marquee, the Finals day teams steeled themselves to test their skills, their ponies, and the quality of the turf on the new field on this sloppy day.

First up was the Bentley Cup Subsidiary Final pitting Edrees against

Wolves Polo Team (Ahmed Al Habtoor, Agustín Canale, Diego Araya and Jerónimo del Carril). Decided in overtime by a 30 yard penalty scored by Araya, the Wolves won the Bentley trophy 8 goals to 7. It was so encouraging to see another new generation of polo players step up and play at this level. Ahmed's father Mohamed Al Habtoor and grandfather Khalaf Ahmed Al Habtoor must have been very proud.

For the St. Regis International Cup of the Dubai Challenge Cup 2016 the Bin Draï team (patron Saeed Bin Draï, Tomás Iriarte, Matías Torres Zavaleta and Raúl Laplacette) met Habtoor Polo (patron Mohammed Al Habtoor, Marcos Panelo, Guillermo Terrera and Guillermo Cuitiño) in an excitingly close game. The action was expert, fast and strong. Then Guillermo Cuitiño took a terrific blow to the head which stopped action while the medics assessed the situation and treated him, but nothing could stop him. He hopped back on and kept on swinging. Despite a two goal gap with only two minutes to go, however, Bin Draï struggled to take that last goal, putting them 8 goals to Habtoor's 7 at the final whistle.

Raúl Laplacette was named the Most Valuable Player of the Final and the mare Mili from patron Saeed Bin Draï was the Best Playing Pony. We noticed during the divot-stomping that the new playing surface held up quite well in these very wet conditions to which Dubai is not normally subject, draining nicely, perhaps earning an honorary Best New Playing Turf.

As one who should know, Adam Snowden experienced Dubai-based polo commentator and 2-goal player has this to say about this high-goal season: "We have had a very exciting and intense 18-goal Dubai Gold Cup Series with many games going to the wire and even overtime generating keen interest with a new comer to the team list, the Wolves. We are looking forward to one, if not two, more new teams next season and a couple to return to the Series when the Dubai Gold Cup Series will be played at the Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club. Yes, it is fair to say polo in Dubai, the UAE is healthy and growing!"

What's Next for Polo in Dubai?

Al Habtoor, who is head of the Dubai Gold Cup Series organising committee, confirmed that work is underway to extend the polo season in the United Arab Emirates to nine months. "This will undoubtedly attract the major teams and the best players around the world," he said.

Al Habtoor concluded, "I have big plans for the Dubai Gold Cup Series next year. We are making preparations for the opening of the Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club. It is a horse lover's dream boasting the best polo fields in the world, and offering all equestrian disciplines. It will be a great addition to polo in Dubai."

In his press statement Al Habtoor thanked HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed for his ongoing support of the 'Sport of Kings', and said the growth of polo in the Dubai was down to the patrons, teams and supporters. "We have all played a key role in the growth of polo in Dubai. The city is now well and truly on the global polo circuit, which is a great source of pride for us all", adding, "Each year the Dubai Gold Cup Series gets better and better, attracting more teams and more players from the region and around the world. We are really pleased with its continued success. The introduction of new tournaments, such as the Dubai Challenge Cup, has been welcomed by everyone. This motivates us even further." 🍷

Photos and additional commentary by Gonzalo Etcheverry



IN DEPTH WITH MOHAMED TAHER ZEYADA

By Khaled Assem

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M. TAHER ZEYADA IS AN EXCELLENT YOUNG RIDER WHOM BERNIE TAURIG CALLED "SUPER TALENT", YET THE REAL BACKBONE OF HIS STRENGTH IS HIS MOTHER. SHE IS THE WONDER WOMAN WHO PUTS FORWARD THE STRATEGY, KEEPS THE LOG BOOK OF WORK AND STRIVES TO KEEP HIM IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE TO RECEIVE THE HIGH RING CRAFT AT A TOP LEVEL. MOUDA IS COMMITTED, HUMBLE AND BEST OF ALL REALISES THAT PERSISTENCE AND PRACTICE TAKES YOU FURTHER THAN YOUR TALENT.

I remember seeing a tiny little boy on a horse in Sporting club, Alexandria; who was active and feisty and always wanting to jump.

Yes, that's true I have always been hungry to ride and jump. If one day I didn't go to train, I'd gallop and jump by myself on my own two legs.

How did it come about? How did you start riding?

When I was young, my mum and I went to Smouha Club just for normal registration in the club and the equestrian part of the club was right next to the registration office, so when I saw the horses jumping it just came to me that I have to ride. My mum told me that we'll come back but I insisted and that was my first time ever on a horse.

Who were the most influential coaches in your career?

I started with Osama Salah, who taught me how to be strong mentally and physically, never be scared of falling, and always think positively.

Also, definitely the president

of the Egyptian Equestrian Federation, Engineer Hesham Hatab; he is my godfather; he trained me himself every day for almost 10 years.

Recently, I've been training with Karim El Zoghby for 5 years now.

Karim has left a huge imprint on my riding and on my personality. But most importantly he helped me understand how I should think going into the arena; always have the winning spirit, know that I can do it, believe in my horse and believe in myself.

I remember when we had a clinic with Bernie Taurig, he said that you are a talented rider and that if you manage your career well you will be one of the best riders in the world.

Bernie is an amazing coach; he gave us a lot of beneficial tips which helped me throughout my riding. After he left everyone could see that all the riders who were in the clinic became more efficient.

What's your plan for 2017?

I have two good horses jumping in the A1, a 9-year-old and a 10-year-old which is the perfect age.

I will focus next season on the Arab League and I will try to go to the World Cup finals.

And my last goal is my biggest goal, the World Equestrian Games! I always like to put high hopes and I will do my best to get qualified.

Of course to reach my goals and to be able to put enough time and effort, I will have to sacrifice a lot as I am studying pharmacy which is not easy and takes a lot of time.

Also, the EU ban on the importation of horses from Egypt hasn't been lifted yet and I need my personal horses to go, so if the ban is not lifted before the end of the year it will be more difficult. However, my mother always supports me and she always has a back-up plan for me. My mother is very smart and very committed, she sacrifices everything for me, she is my

backbone and she gives me all that she can give and more!

Last season, I went to Qatar for a 4 star show and I had only four faults. I also went to Saudi and Sharjah on borrowed horses and I gained a lot of experience which helped me a lot later on in the Furrusiya FEI Nations' Cup when I rode Karim El Zoghby's horse. It all went very well thanks to Karim's management and going to the Pan Arab Games people lent me their horses because they know Karim and trust him.

With everything that you have learned from Karim and everything that has put you in position of greater awareness and experience, what would you change in our system in Egypt to develop?

When I go to Karim's stables I find the horses always moving! Walkers, paddocks, riding, forest or sand paddocks; and they still have half of the day to rest in their boxes and have their own mind sets. I would change this here, because we only come to the horses when we can ride an hour or so per day and the rest of the day the horses are just in their boxes doing nothing.

Now when I'm here I try to apply what I learned from Karim when I have the availability because the clubs in Egypt are not provided with the required equipment. Right now, I am in Platinum Club, and I have to say that the place is amazing. I have everything that I need for my horses. The stables are very good; the weather is very nice as instead of noisy individual fans for every horse, there is a general suction system for every cluster that supplies very good ventilation; we also have a walker, I can take my horses for a walk in hand as well.

I also learned from Karim commitment. Everyone at his stables have to be awake and ready for work at 8 am every morning, not a minute later.

Going to the top of the game it is all about management and mental fitness and that needs to be emphasised here as well. 🏆



Mrs. Josiane Hakiem, Ms. Zienab Kamel, Ms. Amina Ammar and Ms. Carine Shawky.

SHARJAH LADIES CUP

EGYPTIAN LADIES CAPTURE THE BRONZE MEDAL

By Khaled Assem

THE EGYPTIAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION WAS PLEASED AND HONOURED TO RECEIVE AN INVITATION FROM THE ARAB WOMEN SPORTS TOURNAMENT 2016 IN SHARJAH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE THIRD REGIONAL WOMEN'S SHOWJUMPING CHAMPIONSHIP. THIS CHAMPIONSHIP INVITATION WAS EXTENDED TO CLUBS FROM ALL AROUND THE MIDDLE EAST, INCLUDING EGYPT.

Sharjah Ladies Club is one of the government organisations of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, run under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher bint Mohammed AlQasimi, Wife of His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah and Chairperson of Supreme Council for Family Affairs.

Since its establishment in 1982, the club has been dedicated to providing leisure and educational facilities and activities to women and children. The club also organises events and activities to promote issues relating to society, art and health, in addition to charity events, bazaars, exhibitions, marathons, seminars and forums of all sorts.

They established a Women Sports Department to honour the efforts that aim to empower the role of women in the sports field, promote awareness among the society members on the importance of getting active, advance women's productivity and prepare the new generation to lead a healthy and fit lifestyle.

With mounting excitement, the Federation chose the historic 'Ferosia Club' as Egypt's representative team as the club has trained and hosted enough talented women at the level required by the event's organisers in Sharjah. Accordingly, the Federation settled the roster of the Ferosia team: Mrs. Josiane Hakiem, Ms. Amina Ammar, Ms. Zienab Kamel, Ms. Carine Shawky, our international judge Mrs. Hanan Elderieny and I, acting as a chef d'equipe.

Our team were to ride borrowed horses and that in itself was a predicament until Gen. Sayed Moawad contacted Mr. Mohamed Elboraie, one of our most prominent riders living in the Gulf, to help find appropriate horses for our team. On the first day the horse/rider combinations chosen by Mr. Elboraie turned out to be very successful. Amina found two nice options and felt comfortable right away, Zienab had her own horses there that she competes with during the winter season, Carine was at ease with the horse she found and finally Josiane with her usual big smile was content.

The trip was great fun with all the ladies who were so inspired to raise the Egyptian flag, the weather was amazing and the only remaining thing was to turn this inspiration into reality. Apart from the actual results, which were quite good, our ladies were as tough as expected. Amina found a third horse to ride and happily was placed with the three horses. Carine had a fence down with her allocated horse but her father Mr. Shawky fortunately leased another horse that helped increase Carine's opportunities in a bigger class. Zienab jumped her horses with a lot of craft yet a pole down kept her just a notch away from being placed. As for Josiane, she rode like a star and was placed with her horse to make sure that the ladies went back with the flag held high, smiles everywhere and a bronze medal.

Travelling with the team proved to be a very enjoyable experience apart from the tension involved as I am used to being a rider rather than a chef d'equipe but now I know that the fun is just the same. 🐾



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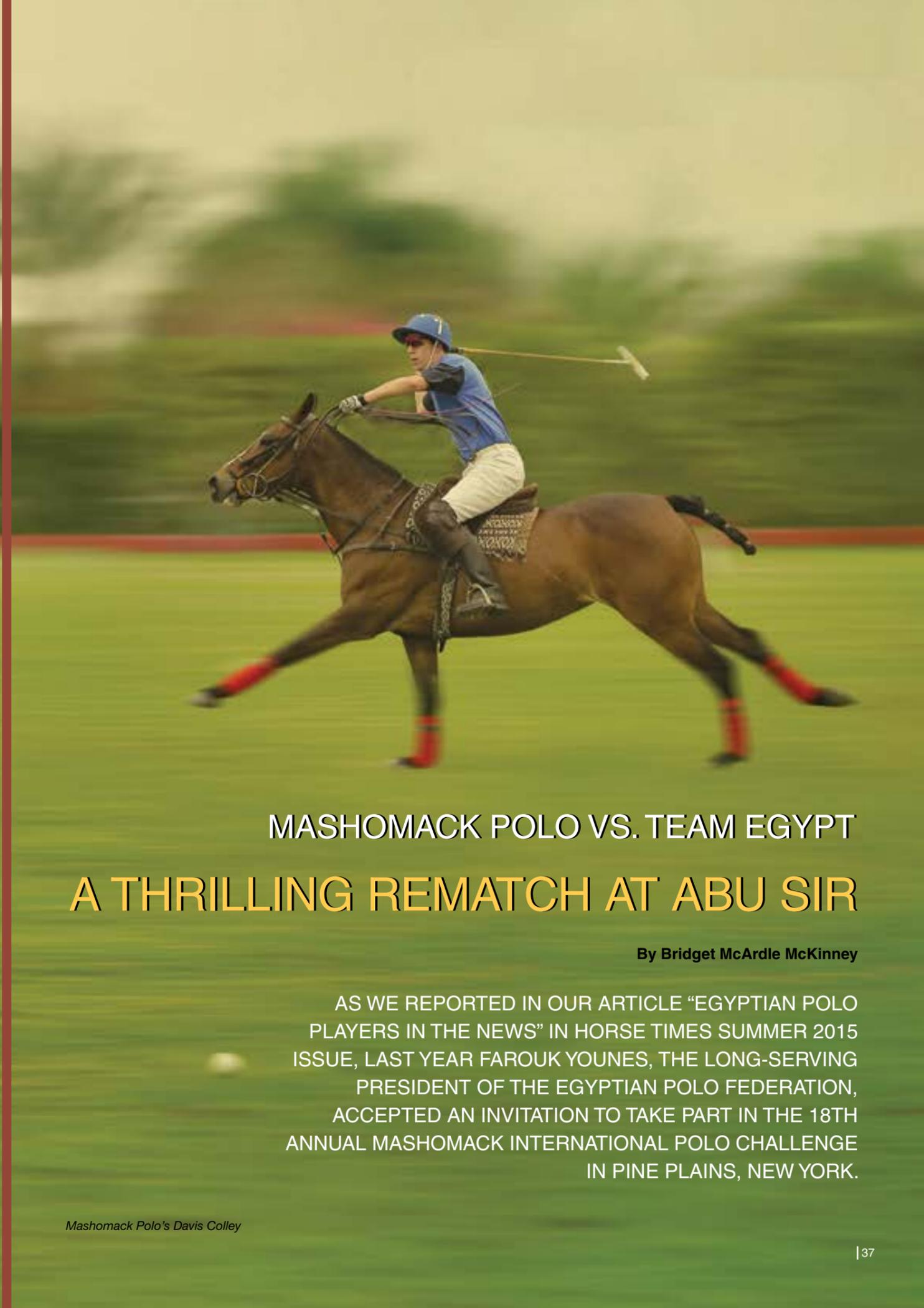
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Egypt's Mohamed Bassiouni



MASHOMACK POLO VS. TEAM EGYPT A THRILLING REMATCH AT ABU SIR

By Bridget McArdle McKinney

AS WE REPORTED IN OUR ARTICLE "EGYPTIAN POLO PLAYERS IN THE NEWS" IN HORSE TIMES SUMMER 2015 ISSUE, LAST YEAR FAROUK YOUNES, THE LONG-SERVING PRESIDENT OF THE EGYPTIAN POLO FEDERATION, ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN THE 18TH ANNUAL MASHOMACK INTERNATIONAL POLO CHALLENGE IN PINE PLAINS, NEW YORK.

Mashomack Polo's Davis Colley



EPF President Farouk Younes



The lovely commentator Jacqueline Younes

Three local teams – Estancia Villa Maria, Beretta and Quest – competed for the trophy against the visiting Team Egypt comprising Farouk Younes – Captain, Hisham Al Gharby, Omar Younes, Aly El Kashef, Mostafa Idris, and substitute Davis Colley. In a cliff-hanging, crowd-pleasing, well-played final match Estancia Villa Maria just tweaked Egypt 2 – 1.

Well, now it was Egypt's turn to try to take back the flag in a friendly rematch on Egyptian soil. On 26 March in the beautiful setting of Younes' Abu Sir Polo Farm on a day threatened with mist and drizzle, Mashomack Polo took to the field to defend the Visitors' position against Team Egypt.

Mashomack Polo team included Bruce Colley (1), John Klopp (1), Don Langlois (1), Parker Gentry Thorne (0), Guy Merison (0), Davis Colley (0), and Silvestre Fanelli (4). The Egyptian Team included Karim Loza (0), Omar Younes (1), Mohy El Kateb (0), Mohamed Bassiouni (2), and Segundo Condesse Stanga (3). The match was skillfully umpired by Mohamed El Sewedy.



Umpire Mohamed El Sewedy





Mashomack Captain Bruce Colley



Egypt captain Karim Loza



The match began well enough for Egypt as it galloped through to 3 goals to the Visitors' nil by half time. The Mashomack team was able to pick up in the next chukka putting two goals on the scoreboard but that still left them with a large task ahead of them at Egypt's 5 goals to their 2 at the end of the third. But rally the Visitors did and in style, coming from behind to tie the score at 5 all in the final chukka until the last remaining second of play when Mashomack put the ball between the goal posts for a 6-5 victory to a thrilled crowd which included many polo fans and family and dignitaries including the Spanish, Austrian and Brazilian ambassadors and officials of the Egyptian Polo Federation.

After the prize-giving, the after-match celebrations, including a mixed match the following day, and farewells to their host Farouk Younes, the winners rewarded themselves with a trip to Upper Egypt to Luxor's Winter Palace and Aswan's Old Cataract Hotel for a taste of ancient Egypt.

Next up on the polo calendar on 29 and 30 April is the exciting Salah Foda Cup, a 12-goal match hosted once again by Farouk Younes at his Abu Sir Polo Farm in which the professional players Frankie and Eduardo Menendez will be playing. 🏇

Photos by Ashraf El Mahrouky



Team Egypt



The winners - Mashomack Polo Club

60 SECONDS WITH AMR GAMAL

By Aya Amr

COUNTRY: Alexandria

DATE OF BIRTH: 24 September, 1990

STAR SIGN: Scorpion

PROFESSION: Professional Show Jumper

Please tell us a little about yourself.

I am Amr, I was born in Alexandria and I have one sister who is two years older than me. Riding is my addiction, it motivates me in all aspects of my life. I started riding when I was 8 years old and I graduated 3 years ago from the Arab Academy for Science and Maritime Transport Logistics.

After I finished my education I started taking the sport up to the professional level. My family and my club "Smouha" have been helping me and supporting me throughout the years. I help my dad with his business, he is an engineer.

I travel every summer to take a clinic outside Egypt to work on myself and gain different experiences.

Describe your typical practice?

I always walk my horses around the track and then do some flatwork. I make a plan for each horse and I follow the plan. I prefer to focus more on the flatwork and gymnastics than jumping to make the horses more fit; however, before the shows I tend to jump them more often. I start riding every day at 8 am and I ride 10 horses per day.

Where is your favourite place for practice?

For sure my club "Smouha".

Describe some of the funny experiences you have had practicing?

I was in Holland and I was riding a 4-year-old horse; he was a bit stupid and didn't want to move, so I put some legs and moved him. When we started galloping, the saddle suddenly turned around and half of me was underneath the horse and the other half trying to hold on until I fell and hit the wall! The funny thing is that after I fell the horse was super and he jumped beautifully!

Tell us one or two things in your training that contributed to your success.

The most important thing I learned

is that I have to make my horse happy! When the horse is happy and has a strong bond with me, he will give me his best.

Also, having a strong plan and some goals helps me achieve good results.

What was the best advice you were given?

Always work on myself, there is always room for improvement and never to give up no matter what the results are.

What advice would you give to young athletes?

Always compete, work hard, don't give up and love your horses.

What is your best achievement?

I won the Grand Prix in Sharm El Sheikh. My mare is 9 years old and she is still new in this class but she is great and she wants to win.

What are the goals that you aspire to achieve?

For short term goals, I want to ride in bigger shows and I will start riding in the CSI3* next season.

Who has been your greatest support?

My family has always been my greatest support; and also Karim El Zoghby, he is the best rider in Egypt and he helped me a lot. I go to his farm in Holland when I don't have shows, to train and work on myself.

What are your greatest motivations?

I like to drink Redbull before any show, it gives me energy and I just love it!

Who is your sporting hero?

The Egyptian football player, Mohammed Salah.

What is your second favourite sport?

Football.

What is your favourite genre of movies?

I love action movies.

What is your favourite gadget that you are obsessed with?

My iPhone!

What is your favourite book and who is your favourite author?

I don't really have the time to read, but I like to read books about horses and training tips.

What is your favourite food?

Chicken.

What is the most memorable place you ever visited?

Holland, it's a mesmerising country!

What is your strength and what is your weakness?

My strength is that I work really hard and my weakness is that I get scared sometimes when something goes wrong with my plan.

If you had the power to change something in this world, what would you change?

I would make Egypt on the top of the rankings all the time and not only in show jumping, but in all fields.

If there is something about yourself that you would like to change, what would that be?

I would like to quit smoking.

If you weren't what you are today, what would you rather be?

A successful businessman.

Finally, which question would you ask yourself?

Where will I be and what will I have achieved in 5 years? 🐾



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A MARE IN SEARCH OF HER PREVIOUS OWNER

FINDING SUZANNE

By: Engy Adham



Khaled Assem and Julie.



Khaled Assem and Julie.

DEAR SUZANNE,
REMEMBER JUNE 2000?

SUNBEAMS SPARKLED OFF THE WATER WHILE A WARM GLOW OF LIGHT SHINED ALL AROUND THE BEAUTIFUL LANDS OF HOLLAND. A SANDY RING WITNESSED THE CREATION OF A LIFELONG BOND BETWEEN A YOUNG GIRL CALLED SUZANNE AND ME, A NINE-YEAR-OLD MARE CALLED JULIE.

IN THE MIDST OF A BUSY LIFE FULL OF ADVENTURES, SPOTLIGHTS, CHALLENGES, TROPHIES AND MANY NEW FRIENDS, I STILL REMEMBER YOU. IN ORDER TO INTRODUCE YOU TO WHO I HAVE BECOME, I HAVE TO REWIND THE TAPE OF MY LIFE.

Fifteen years ago, I was saying goodbye to you as I was being sold to a kind gentleman in Cairo. Travelling a long way from Holland to Cairo left me with butterflies in my stomach, but I knew I was going to adapt to the changes.

Spending our childhood together, you knew all my tricks and habits. You knew your way around me as I did around you. You left my new owner a letter to help him connect the dots of my character. You told my owner to treat me well as I will have come a long way from Holland, so he should not be too hard on me the first week. Also, you reminded him not to forget the changes in weather as I will need some time to adapt to these changes in Cairo, advising that once I got used to it, we would enjoy our training together. You never forgot that we had our own riding style, but you knew that I would need some time to get used to a different one. You understood from experience that I am not able to jump every day, so you left him a note of that as well. I like to ride outside with you every Monday to shake off some stress after competitions. You even knew my deepest and most personal habits. I have always liked to enjoy my own privacy. The stable is my safe haven; it is where I like to enjoy my own company, so it is best if you don't come close by, especially when I am having dinner. You also knew that my favorite snacks are sugar, bread, apples and carrots.

You promised to come and visit to see where I live, Suzanne. Till then, I thought I'd write to you so you can picture me after fifteen years.

Now, I am retired, weighed with wisdom, life experiences, successes and failures. Injuries have contributed in shaping me. I even have small and soft scars; you might not notice them, but they are part of me now. Small and

soft as they are, they carry memories to remind me of my history.

My body maps out my history; my eyes are wiser than my years. I am stronger and bigger but I still have my delicate features, just like you used to know me. My body is a better storyteller than I could ever be. Tracing the mass of muscles in my body would show how many miles I ran and how many fences I jumped. My owner and I won several competitions and events; you'll find a picture of us in a show jumping competition. I won so many times, but my true victory is in the bonds I have developed. Bonds like ours. They are the ones that keep me motivated to move forward even when I suffer from a bad injury.

The biggest lesson I have learned is that I have no masters, only partners. Life is a race that never stops; it does not really matter who goes faster as long as we meet at the finish line. I am proud of myself; I competed with the big guys and I reached the finish line.

Thank you for all that you taught me since I was a little mare. I long to see you and take you for a ride on my back to show you where I trained, where I tumbled and where I did my first big jump.

Now before I leave you, read carefully. Do not miss the Jumping Amsterdam 2016 event; you will meet someone special, a seven-year-old bay with silky dark hair. Her name is Julie Junior. 🐾

Yours, Julie

Photos by Horse times

MICHEL ISMALUN

UN EXPERT FRANCAIS EN CONCEPTION DE COURS EN EGYPTE

By Aya Amr

© Jiluan Martin Valliere



FRENCHMAN MICHEL ISMALUN STARTED WORKING WITH THE EGYPTIAN EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION (EEF) IN 2010 DESIGNING COURSES IN NATIONAL SHOWS. BUT THAT WAS NOT ENOUGH: HIS VISION STRETCHED BEYOND THAT. HE WANTED TO DEVELOP COURSES GRADUALLY TO RAISE THE STANDARD OF HORSES AND RIDERS IN EGYPT AT DIFFERENT LEVELS TO MATCH THE EUROPEAN STANDARDS.

The first time Michel was contacted by the EEF was in 2010; one of the Federation members asked him to cancel everything on his schedule and travel to Egypt to build a course for a national competition. As Michel was born in Alexandria here in Egypt, coming back was kind of like going back to his roots; he did not hesitate and travelled to Cairo.

His first job was as a rider and a trainer at the French military riding academy École Nationale d'Équitation in the Cadre Noir, the corps of ecuyers, or instructors, at Saumur in western France. Michel told HT that he started to build courses because he was sure that there is the same pedagogic approach to being a course designer or a trainer, that it is all about teaching horses and riders, and trying to make them improve.

Michel always focuses on the balance between the skills and feeling of the riders, he notices that all the Egyptian riders had a sharp sense of riding but were often missing technique and method. At the end of the first show, he had a meeting with the EEF board members concerning the future. He explained, "My opinion about building courses was first to get the horses and riders in confidence and trust; it means building teaching courses where the riders will learn how to understand their horses better." He added, "Almost every rider asked me after walking the course about where the traps are! My answer was: setting traps will help the bad riders but won't help the good ones, so no traps."

This is Michel's ideal teaching course. A teaching course does not mean a lower level or an easy one but it attempts to make the best rider win instead of the best horse; it has normal distances, normal combinations, fitting an even canter all along the course, so the rider will never ride against his horse but will be able to ride fluidly and smoothly. All the distances have to fit the natural canter of the average horse with no traps and it has to fit all kinds of horses, the long and short strided ones, the hot and the cold ones, any kind of horse should be able to find a solution in order to be clear if well ridden. A nice approach to a combination should always let the horse get out clear; they shouldn't have any penalty faults in the combinations but on single jumps, because a combination is the place where a horse can lose his heart and willingness if he feels trapped. We all

know that it takes years to create confidence between a horse and a rider, but it only takes a second to lose it, and this happens basically in combinations. A teaching course should also have all kinds of different scenarios, lines, broken lines, wide turns, any detail that will help the riders stay smooth in their riding.

"My goal was to see the horses jumping better the second and the last day than the first day of the competitions, and better each upcoming horse show," Michel said.

The President of the Federation, Hesham Hatab, and his crew agreed with Michel, and very soon in the season the riders started to improve tremendously! They all started to find the rhythm and pace that best suit the horse in order to be clear; the first show, in the A2 and A1 classes, just 3 or 4 riders were clear.

After the fourth show, from among around 25 riders in the A1, 8 or 9 riders were clear and many light 4 faults were happening here and there. Michel said, "I was astonished to see how fast these riders adapted their riding to my courses and very often, they upgraded their levels from C to B, and B to A2-A1 without being scared of the heights or the widths." He continued, "It was also a blast to watch the jump-offs and classes against the clock, because I think Egyptian riders are very competitive and they don't like to lose!"

Michel was asked by Mr. Hesham Hatab to train some riders for an indoor event in Damascus, so he built compact courses in order to give the riders the "indoor feel". It worked and the Egyptian team won many classes there which was a great reward for both Michel and the riders.

Then, unfortunately for the sport, the revolution came and of course created a huge disruption in the group improvement. "When the season re-started after that break, the level of the horses and riders had declined. We started all over again, even though many horses and riders left the country in order to keep competing. Very quickly the passion again took the lead and the riders got back to serious competing."

Nowadays, the upper level of competitive riders has progressed even more than in the times before the revolution. Many more young riders have started joining the sport, which proves that show jumping is more popular than ever and the goals of the Federation are being achieved so far.

"It is a real honour for me to build courses in Egypt; as the riders, trainers and actually everybody are very kind and grateful for my job. Crowds of very young riders join the competitions every week and this has nothing to do with luck, the EEF has done and is still doing a great job, organising many competitions and welcoming anyone who shares the same passion. I am sure that it will keep growing and growing. The next step Insha'Allah will be having the animal health customs restrictions opened so that foreign countries will come and compete, and Egyptian riders will be able to compete outside their country." As HT concludes the interview, Michel says, "I will never be able to thank all the people enough, for their warm and kind welcome; very quickly Egypt felt like home." 🏠



ZAMAN: PART ONE

A LOOK BACK AT MY LIFE WITH HORSES

By Omar Mamdouh Ismail

OMAR MAMDOUH ISMAIL IS WELL-KNOWN TO HORSE TIMES AND TO THE EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITY IN EGYPT. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A VERY DISCIPLINED ATHLETE, THE FIRST OF HIS GENERATION TO STEP UP INTO THE BIG CLASS AND COMPETE AGAINST THE SENIORS AND WIN. HIS DISCIPLINE SHOWED IN HIS COMMITMENT TO HIS RIDING AND HIS HORSES AND SURELY IN HIS GENERAL MANNER OF CONDUCT WITH HIS FELLOW RIDERS AND FRIENDS. HE WAS A ROLE MODEL THAT LED THE WAY FOR A WHOLE GENERATION TO FOLLOW. WE SPOKE TO OMAR ABOUT HIS LIFE WITH HORSES IN EGYPT.

Ever since I was a child my parents used to take me to show jumping competitions. Back then I watched legendary riders like Selim Zaki, Gamal Harris, Abd El Kerim Sadek, Omar Mansour, Omar El Hadary and Elwi Ghazi, and the horse shows in the late sixties were similar to the ones in Europe at that time.

Those star riders I mentioned were so lucky to be well trained by La Farge, Brinkman, and Conforti, world known trainers. The military competitors from the Army and Police were the majority; civilians were less than a handful and less talented. In the early seventies after the October War things changed and civilian riders started to out-number the military, and some represented the military but were civilians like myself.

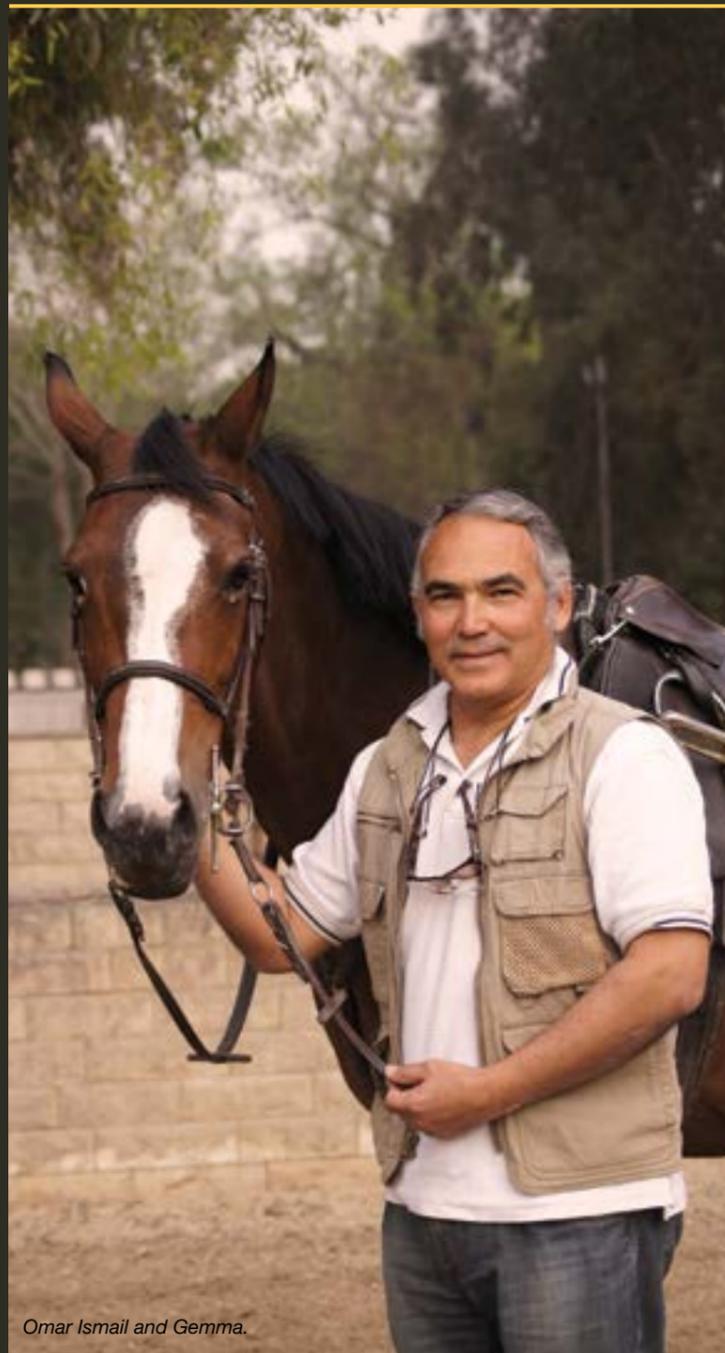
Riding for the military was not easy as the hierarchy in the military was set in stone, the higher the rank the better the horses, grooms, and equipment. In those days a general would get better horses than a major just for rank, not for skill. Sadly a general might have a very limited idea about horses and jumping and the result might be abusing the horse physically and mentally. For civilians in this system it was obviously tough at that time. The great riders I mentioned left the military with a vacuum; no one was like those stars.

Also, back then, the competitions were 120 cm in height maximum with very few horses and mediocre results, and the ban for equine influenza on Egyptian horses traveling abroad kept the sport stagnant. This ban started in 1964 and ended in 1987, so for nearly a quarter of a century I never saw or heard of a horse infected with influenza in Egypt. It sounded like the great riders we had in the past wanted to say that no one can be better than them.

My colleagues and I all put great pressure on the Egyptian Equestrian Federation to help remove this ban and allow our horses to travel abroad, the ban wasn't lifted until 1987.

In 1975 due to the increasing number of Officers' sons riding in the Cavalry and becoming the backbone of the military team, the Commander of the Armed Forces issued a decree allowing them to represent the Army. Unfortunately, the hierarchy remained the same; the three or four officers who rode had very limited capability to ride and jump. This created jealousy in politics and energy wasted not for the well-being of the sport but in relation to who is who and who is well connected.

As for me, it was very hard but a strong spirit and an immense struggle to learn and improve was my main focus; I stayed away from politics and gossip. All the knowledge I needed I couldn't find in the younger military generation that followed the great riders we had in the past. I got it from my great mother and father. My mother an ex-champion swimmer and my father was a revolutionary warrior and founder of the elite Ranger Corps and the Armor Forces of the Presidential Guard. Their knowledge of sports and training helped me improve.



Omar Ismail and Gemma.

The philosophy my coach had was to recruit young men in the Army mostly illiterate, undernourished, and physically unfit, and in a short time mold them into masters in using sophisticated arms, very fit to accomplish any assignment required, able to defeat the enemy and bring victory to Egypt. Applying this philosophy to horses was successful. Famous horses of that time like Hazak, Saroukh, Salama, Basel2, Monz, Zay El Asal, Chiquita, Mustang, and many others were much respected by other competitors. I learned the technical part of equestrianism through reading in the horse library my parents provided, traveling abroad, and learning from world class riders in Europe and the United States. 🇪🇬

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- Mr, Ahmed Gaafar and Mr, and Mrs, Ahmed Sabbour.



The main arena.



Zein Shady Samir and Mr, Ramy Iskander

EQUICARE RIDING CENTER A RIDING FACILITY WITH A NEW EQUESTRIAN CONCEPT

By Khaled Assem



Farida El Sherbiny, Ahmed Magdy, Salvador Pinto Da França, Zein Shady Samir, Merit Fanous, Khaled Assem, Malak Assem, Ali Sabbour, Abdelrahman mosallam, Selim Gaafar, Youssef Hani and Aya Amr.



Malak Assem.



Salvador Pinto Da França.

LOCATED WITHIN THE PRIME AND EXCLUSIVE FACILITY OF 'PLATINUM CLUB' IN NEW CAIRO, EQUICARE RIDING CENTER HAS A SEATING CAPACITY FOR 1,000 SPECTATORS; DESIGNED SIMILAR TO A ROMAN AMPHITHEATRE SURROUNDING ONE QUARTER OF THE MAIN ARENA REACHING A HEIGHT OF 30 METERS ABOVE GROUND, GIVING A SPECTACULAR VIEW OF THE RIDING ARENAS.





Farah Moustafa, Ali Sabbour and Safa El Kabbany.



Nahla El Sawaf, Khaled Assem and Merit Fanous

The club is built to host 84 horses to the highest international standards. Including automatic irrigation, the riding arenas with their international fibre footing extend over 7,000 square meters with excellent lighting posts with enough lux for evening show jumping training and events. Apart from a full management system, including an on-board vet working within a highly disciplined system, the riding center also provides excellent lodging for grooms, tack boxes for owners, showering areas, a solarium, an exercising horse walker and a hydro jet for tendon problems.

The clients of the riding center will enjoy various services; The pony club, a haven for young children starting from the age of four where they can be introduced to the concept of riding, grooming, washing and handling of ponies. More bonding and fun classes with the ponies as well as arts and crafts related to the subject; the art of equitation, which is the core of true horsemanship, allowing riders to learn correct postures, balance, supple positions and effective aids up to the highest standards with approved coaches; show jumping daily training and regular clinics in cooperation with the French Equestrian Federation, for different training programmes and approved riding certificates by the French Equestrian Federation; and the center will also provide Dressage clinics in cooperation with the French Equestrian Federation for the introductory levels.

Currently at the riding center, the French trainer, Minostrande Bruneau, is living in the club in her own studio, creating a new base for a French design system approved by the French Equestrian Federation, working with

the pony club which is the first of its kind in Egypt. She is working along with the Marketing and Sales Manager Merit Fanous, the Pony Club Manager Nahla El Sawaf, the General Manager Ayman Fahmy who are the team that manage the club's new Equestrian vision.

The Dutch trainer, Arno Neessen, was invited to participate and give a four-day clinic to Egypt's young riders. From 16 to 19 February, thirty riders received an intensive technical training clinic, each day for one hour. Arno gave his helpful instructions, instructive feedback and precise tips for each rider. Arno's main aim was to teach the riders how to feel their distances and how to control and collect their horses between the fences.

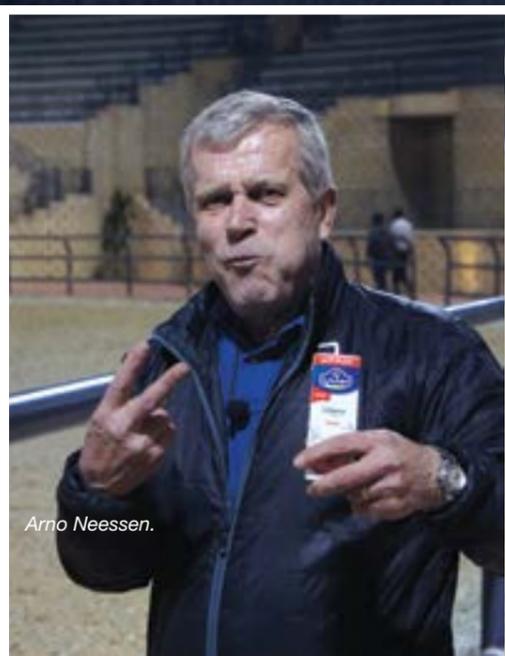
Arno designed four tough training courses for the riders starting from tight turns, challenging track and obstacles that required optimum control of the horse. After each session, Arno gave advice to each rider to make sure they were fully aware of their mistakes and, accordingly, could improve.

Equicare Riding Center provides new perspective to the art of the Equestrian sport as well as the Equestrian code of conduct.

Photos by HORSE TIMES



Fagr Moustafa and Nada Hani.



Arno Neessen.



Mahmoud Kerdia.



Selim Gaafar, Youssef Hani and Abdelrahman Mosallam.



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TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE IN INSURANCE CLAIMS: SOME LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CARRIAGE OF HORSES BY AIR

By Peter Haanappel and Piotr Wawrzyniak

IN OUR CONTINUING SERIES OF ARTICLES ON LEGAL ISSUES RELATED TO HORSES AND THE EQUINE WORLD, IN THIS ISSUE WE SHARE AN ARTICLE ON SOME LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE CARRIAGE OF HORSES BY AIR, PREPARED IN COLLABORATION WITH PROF. PETER HAANAPPEL. PROF. HAANAPPEL IS A WELL-KNOWN EXPERT ON AVIATION LAW AND AN AVID HORSEMAN. IN THE PAST HE PARTICIPATED IN THE DRAFTING OF AVIATION LAWS IN A NUMBER OF THE MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES.

Some countries in the Middle East, for instance Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, and Saudi Arabia, have ratified the Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air executed in Montreal on 28 May 1999 (the "Montreal Convention 1999"). The convention has been ratified by 119 countries in the world giving its provisions a universal character. The full list of the current members of the Montreal Convention 1999 can be found on www.icao.int. Within the framework of this article we would like to review some legal aspects of the carriage of horses by air.

Probably the most publicised air crash involving horses was the crash at London's Heathrow Airport, on 3 July 1968, of an Airspeed Ambassador aircraft of BKS Air Transport, arriving from Deauville, France with, amongst others, eight race horses on board. All horses perished, along with three out of the five grooms. Obviously, such an accident is what we all wish to avoid.

The carriage of horses by air, given their nature and value, is a very specialised business, requiring great care. Not all airlines transport horses and only larger aircraft - mixed passenger / cargo aircraft or all cargo aircraft - can accommodate them. Only one US domestic airline (at the same time forwarder) is reported to carry horses exclusively, in a single aircraft Boeing 727 fleet. In addition to specialised airlines and airports, also specialised intermediaries,

shippers and freight forwarders are involved. The International Air Transport Association (IATA), to which most international airlines in the world belong, has been instrumental in developing the IATA Live Animals Regulations (LAR) which govern the matter, in addition to each carrier's own handling rules.

Like other animals, we owe horses our care and respect, as evidenced by, for instance, the European Convention for the Protection of Animals during International Transport. In law, however, horses remain "moveables" in civil law; or "chattels corporea", in common law. That increasingly they are being recognised as "sentient living beings", such as in the EU's Lisbon Treaty and soon, probably, in the French Civil Code, does not change much in practice. Since horses cannot be carried by air as "accompanying baggage" in the passenger cabin of an aircraft because of their size, their carriage by air is as cargo, as freight. Depending on the length of the flight, they must be watered and fed during the flight, and must be secured in special flight stalls. Importantly, horses need to be accompanied by air grooms, whether servants of the airline, of the owner or of the forwarder, or any combination thereof. Sometimes tranquilisation of horses traveling by air is necessary to avoid undue stress. Upon arrival of the horse at destination after international travel, quarantine regulations may apply.

The Montreal Convention 1999, consolidating and revising the old Warsaw Convention 1929 (with nearly the same title) and its various protocols and amendments, governs the liability of the air carrier for death, injury of, or other damage to horses, carried by air as cargo, in international as well as often in domestic air transportation. It should be noted that in the large US domestic market, the liability of the air carrier is not governed by "Montreal" or "Warsaw", but by applicable State (contract) law. The carrier's liability under Warsaw / Montreal applies whilst the horse is in the "charge" of the airline. Basically the liability is strict and the carrier will be liable for loss, destruction or damage, unless, translating the Convention into terms applicable to horses, the damage is caused by the state of health of the horse prior to travel, or by defective flight stalls (other than those provided by the carrier). Carrier's liability may be strict, but it is limited, under Montreal 1999, to 17 Special Drawing Rights per kilogram (17 SDR = € 20 or US \$ 25) for horse and stall.

The carrier may not pay less than this, whatever the contract of carriage says. However, the limit of 17 SDR under the Montreal Convention even applies in the case of intentional or willful misconduct of the carrier or his servants and agents. Obviously, the sum of 17 SDR is inadequate compensation in many or most cases of carriage of horses by air. Under the Convention

the consignor (sender) may “declare additional value” for the shipment, and then, in case of damage, the carrier must pay compensation up to that higher value, but then, obviously, in exchange for a higher cargo rate. This seems to be rare in practice. Different kinds of insurance contracts are used to cover the risk exceeding the carrier’s liability limit.

Under the Montreal / Warsaw conventional systems for the air carriage of horses, the airline must issue an airway bill to the consignor, with copy for the consignee (addressee). Unlike the Bill of Lading of maritime transport, the airway bill is not a negotiable instrument and, in the case of transportation of horses, the airway bill does not incorporate any right of ownership or other legal title to the horse. The closest an airway bill gets to a Bill of Lading, is when it is made out to “bearer” as consignee. But then, this says nothing about ownership or other title to the horse. Ownership of or other legal title to the horse may change during the carriage by air, involving consignor, consignee, and / or third parties, but this does not affect the rights and duties of the air carrier. In the case of loss or damage during the air transportation, for which the carrier, for one reason or another, is not liable, the risk of loss falls upon the owner of the horse or equivalent title holder, unless contractual arrangements between consignor, consignee and third parties stipulate otherwise. This risk only seems to be insurable at very high premiums.

There is relatively little published case law on the carriage of horses by air, probably indicating that out of court settlements are more common

than litigation. Giumulla / Schmid (eds.), Montreal Convention, Kluwer Law International, loose leaf, reports a limited number of cases. A very well written judgment on the carriage of a horse by air from Canada to New Zealand, governed by the old Warsaw Convention, as amended by the Hague Protocol 1955, is Stud v. Trans International Airlines: US Court of Appeals, 9th Circ., No. 83-1543, Decided March 8, 1984, 727 F. 2d 880. We report it here for its clarity.

In April 1980, Transamerica transported the horse “Super Clint” on a flight from Canada to New Zealand. Super Clint, for whom Stud had paid \$300,000 the month before, seemed to be in good health upon arrival in New Zealand on April 4. Shortly afterwards the horse became visibly ill; he died on April 14, 1980. A veterinarian who performed an autopsy on April 15 concluded that the cause of death was “pleuro pneumonia” probably brought on by the stress of travel.” The final autopsy report was dated June 21, 1980.

Shortly after obtaining the final autopsy report, the Stud’s insurance company notified Trans International Airline s about the loss. It was, however, two months after the death of the horse. The US Court of Appeals (the “Court”) decided that the Stud complained too late. According to the Warsaw Convention, as amended by the Hague Protocol 1955, they should have complained within fourteen days following Article 26 thereof, which states that “[i]n case of damage, the person entitled to delivery must complain to the carrier forthwith after the discovery of the damage, and, at the latest, within fourteen days from the date

of the receipt in the case of goods”. It needs to be noted that the same time barriers for notice of complaint regarding cargo apply under Article 31 of the Montreal Convention 1999. The Court judged that the complaint was not timely raised and that therefore the claim was barred.

An important lesson for practice is for the consignees to examine their horse forthwith and, if applicable, to give notice of any problems or issues forthwith. That would be of course the case in the event the carrier opens the cargo bay at the end of a flight and discovers together with the consignee that a horse shipped live is now dead or disabled. Both the carrier and the consignee then know that injury or death has occurred during the transportation and that the carrier may be held liable. Referring to the case of Super Clint the Court ruled that the Convention did not require Stud to prove to a certainty at the time of giving notice that Transamerica had caused Super Clint’s death. There was no need to wait for a final autopsy report before giving notice of complaint. Therefore, it must be stressed again that in such cases time is of the essence. ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾

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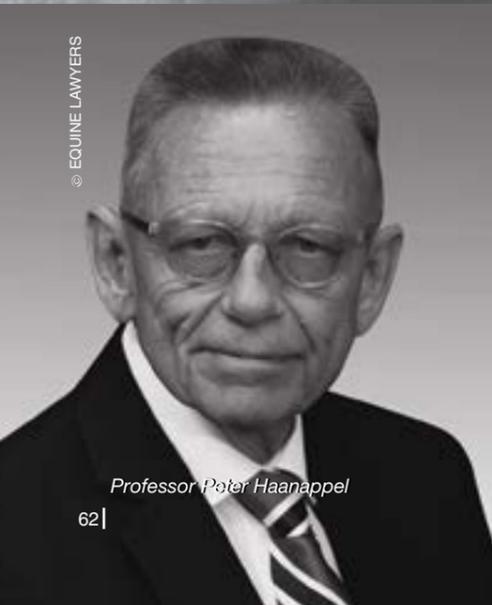
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ORIENTALISM AND THE ARABIAN HORSE: PART I

CARLE VERNET

By Judith Wich-Wenning

HORSE TIMES IS PLEASED TO PRESENT A THREE-PART SERIES BY JUDITH WICH-WENNING EXPLORING THE FINE ART MOVEMENT OF ORIENTALISM AND THREE IMPORTANT ORIENTALIST ARTISTS WHO PORTRAYED THE ARABIAN HORSE AS THEIR KEY SUBJECT, IMAGES SO BEAUTIFUL AND ENDURING THAT THEY ARE ADMIRERD AND COVETED TO THIS VERY DAY.



A very typical motive for Carle Vernet: "Mameluck on his Stallion", lithograph owned by Judith Wich-Wenning.

The Orientalist Movement

Since primeval time, the horse has been a favourite subject for painters. Arabian horse lovers admire especially works of art from "Orientalism". This term refers to the many 19th century artists who specialized in "Oriental" themes. They painted, for example, Islamic architecture, lively Arabian market scenes, imposing guards and the endless expanse of the desert. But maybe most importantly, Orientalist artists left a treasured heritage: numerous unsurpassed portraits of Arabian horses.

Fiery stallions with flashing eyes, Mamluks on proud steeds, noble mares with their dainty foals – Orientalist art is a feast for the eyes. Today, Orientalist lithographs and originals are highly sought-after collectors' items. They are in great demand by art connoisseurs but of course especially by Arabian horse enthusiasts. We can only marvel at the impressive scenes, showing the classic, timeless beauty of the Arabian horse. But how did the Orientalist movement come into existence?

For centuries Western artists have been fascinated by the exotic world of the Orient. The peak of this interest was certainly reached in the nineteenth century. A door opener for this was Napoleon Bonaparte's – ultimately unsuccessful – invasion of Egypt in 1798. It was not only a military expedition but also a scientific exploration. Its science and art commission made up of mathematicians, artists and architects. This project stimulated great public interest and founded Egyptology, as we know it today. It discovered for example the famous "Rosetta Stone", whose inscriptions later provided the key deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphs. Another result of Napoleon's expedition was the famous book "Description de l'Egypte". It is the final result of the collective work of all the scientists of the campaign. This extraordinary, well-illustrated publication is one of the most impressive books ever printed.

The beginning of the 19th century brought about a burgeoning appreciation for the Arabian horse. Its beauty, nobility and endurance were highly esteemed. Artists immortalized Arabian horses in breathtaking works and provided a new source of stimulation for breeders and admirers – even up to this day.

Growing interest in Oriental countries soon spread all over Europe and exerted an influence on science and the arts. The centre for this development was certainly France. Although travelling to North Africa and the Middle East was difficult and dangerous at that time, more and more explorers and painters set out for this desirable journey. The discovery of the East, its cities, ruins and exotic way of life fascinated them on a large scale. They were deeply influenced – most of them for the rest of their life – by what they had seen. The quality of the light, intensity of the colours and the diversity of the people were so different from what they knew in Europe. It comes as no surprise that they wanted to immortalize these impressions in their artwork.

At that time, usually artists were only able to do sketches and watercolours on the spot. Due to the complex preparation required, it was almost impossible to paint in oil during a journey. Therefore most oil paintings were executed in the studio after the return home. Only when in the 1860s tubes for containing paint were invented, it was finally possible to carry everything along and work on location. Interestingly, many Orientalist painters came back home with souvenirs. They brought along small pieces of furniture, weapons, jewellery and garments. After their return, these collections

were integrated into their paintings executed in the studio. Today, we can discover these souvenirs in their works of art.

An aspiring technical novelty had its impact on Orientalism: in the year 1796, a new artistic medium was invented. The German Alois Senefelder from Munich developed lithography, a printing method that would become very popular among Orientalist artists. It made printing more affordable and therefore art available to more people. The French Godefroy Engelmann took this invention even one-step further and developed chromolithography. This method perfected the process and made multi-colour printing feasible. Totally new possibilities to reproduce paintings were created.

The taste for Orientalist paintings grew with the public's new preference for information on Arabian countries. This phenomenon was international, supplied by a complex group of artists. Regarding Arabian horse pictures, there is a number of great artists who immortalized the beauty and charisma of the Arabian horse. There were famous as well as almost unknown painters. Many of them came from France – a real stronghold for Orientalism. Indeed, the "Great Three" – Carle Vernet, Horace Vernet and Victor Adam - were French. They are household names for anybody who loves the Arabian horse in art. Their paintings



"Cheval Sauvage", 19th century lithograph by Carle Vernet from the collection of Judith Wich-Wenning.



A homage to Egypt's Arabian horses: "In Front of the Pyramids" by Carle Vernet, collection of Judith Wich-Wenning.



"Mohammed Ali Pasha, Vice-Roy of Egypt", lithograph from the year 1818, owned by Judith Wich-Wenning.

and drawings are exemplary. This article will characterize the life, work and influence of these unforgettable three artists.

Carle Vernet: Bordeaux 1758 – Paris 1836

Antoine Charles Horace Vernet, also known as Carle Vernet, was the youngest son of Joseph Vernet, the famous painter of marine subjects. He was born in Bordeaux in 1758 while his father created his glorious views of the Ports of France on behalf of the French King. Carle Vernet was a pupil of his father and of Lépicié, a very successful history painter.

Joseph Vernet fostered his son Carle and his artistic talent on a large scale. He encouraged him during his art education and supported him financially. Thanks to Joseph's own reputation, he enabled Carle to personally meet many of the most important men – for example, Voltaire and Rousseau – of his time.

Carle Vernet loved horses since his childhood and immensely enjoyed painting and drawing them. Without a doubt, Carle Vernet is one of the best and most famous horse artists of the 19th century. He broke with tradition and drew horses with the forms he had learned while observing nature in stables and riding schools. In 1782 he won the highly coveted Prix de Rome – his first major prize – and left to stay at the famous Villa Medici in Rome. The mystical "Eternal City" fascinated Carle Vernet. During this visit he turned towards religion and seriously thought about becoming a monk. His father travelled to Rome and persuaded him to return with him to Paris – just in time

before Carle entered a monastery.

Back in Paris, Carle soon took up again his old life. In 1787 he married Catherine Moreau. Two years later, in the year of the French revolution, their famous son Horace was born. He would follow in his father's footsteps. However, Carle Vernet's life was not without sorrow. His sister Emilie was guillotined during the Revolution for hiding letters to members of the aristocracy. Together with a friend, Carle Vernet tried to save her, but all was in vain. After this tragic event, he gave up art. When he began to draw again, his style had changed. Carle Vernet started to paint detailed battles and campaigns to glorify Napoleon. In 1800, he followed Bonaparte to Italy and in 1808 Napoleon awarded him the Legion of Honour for one of his battle scenes.

Despite the dark clouds in his youth, Carle Vernet was a very positive and happy character. Apart from the tragic end of his beloved sister, his life – similar to his father's – was an almost uninterrupted series of triumphs and success.

In his own time, Vernet was first of all known as an extraordinary painter of horses in full movement. Carle Vernet's horses are truly special: They are lively creatures, always in action, full of temperament and high spirit. They look slender and elegant, with sparkling eyes and pricked ears. Carle Vernet often depicted his horses having their mouths open – a characteristic giving them a wild, untamed and dramatic touch. The security of Carle Vernet's pencil stroke was remarkable.

The work of Carle Vernet can be divided into four categories: his refined pencil drawings, his impressive paintings, the charming watercolours and sepias and last but not least his lithographs.

Carle Vernet was among the first French artists to experiment with lithography. Carle Vernet loved this new medium, which offered him a wide range of new possibilities. His handling of the black and white scale was outstanding. Apart from his battle scenes and horse pictures, Carle Vernet became famous for his caricatures and the illustrations of La Fontaine's fables. Carle Vernet was also the first teacher for Théodore Géricault – another great French artist passionate about horses. Up to this day, Carle Vernet's Arabian horse pictures are smashing. They provide a fantastic source of comparison and are a model for breeders.

Carle Vernet was an avid, excellent horseman throughout his life. Even in old age, he regularly loved to ride his thoroughbred through the Bois de Boulogne. Just days before his death at the age of 78, he was seen racing with his horse as if he were a young man. Carle Vernet was an exceptional personality and a marvellous artist. No wonder that his pictures are among the most sought-after works concerning Arabian horses.

Carle Vernet's last words before passing away were said to be: "It is bizarre how much I resemble the Grand Dauphin: son of a king, father of a king ... and never king myself." How soothing it would be for Carle Vernet to see his artwork so treasured in these days. He was a true king, a master of the Arabian horse in art. 🐾

For inquiries regarding the Arabian horse in art please contact:

Judith Wich-Wenning, Germany, Tel.: ++49 1707721739 or email: JudithWich@t-online.de

Photos by Judith Wich-Wenning



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2016 SCOTTSDALE ARHA

REINING FUTURITY SUCCESS

By Sue Adams

ARABIAN & HALF-ARABIAN FUTURITY CLASSIC SCORES PERFECT MARKS IN FUN, EXCITEMENT AND WEATHER

Judged a big success, the Arabian Reining Horse Association (ARHA) Arabian and Half Arabian Futurity at the 2016 Scottsdale Arabian Show boasted top scores in all categories. The weather was picture perfect with warm, some might say hot, desert sun providing unlimited tanning opportunities daily. The competition was outstanding, with 239 entries, and each year of the Futurity sees improvement in reining stock quality. Enthusiastic audiences gathered daily around the Wells Fargo Advisors Arena enjoying the performances of both seasoned and new competitors.

The Scottsdale Arabian Show continues to shine as the world's most prestigious Arabian event. For 2016 some 2,200 horses accounted for approximately 10,000 class entries. Nearly 300,000 people attended the event over the eleven days of the Show according to Taryl O'Shea who is executive director of the producing Arabian Horse Association of Arizona (AHAA). The event is a massive undertaking that requires 40 judges, 100 temporary staff members and some 400 volunteers.

Over finals weekend Judy Kibler, president of the ARHA Board of Directors, confirmed the success of the Futurity with an announcement that \$100,000 in prize monies are committed for the 2017 Futurity. "The ARHA Futurity aims to count among the world's best in reining horse competitions. Securing additional Futurity money for next year keeps us moving toward that goal," she stated.

EXHIBITORS AND BREEDERS WELCOME INCREASED FUTURITY SUPPORT

Dick Ames, together with Joe Betten and Tom Redmond, are fondly called the "Founding Fathers" of the Arabian and Half Arabian Futurity. Their financial commitment helped propel the Futurity's status in the reining horse world. The Ames family's Cedar Ridge Arabians breeding program speaks to his long term commitment to the sport of reining with some thirty horses in their reining program. "We are very positive about the future of the ARHA and the Futurity," explains Ames. "We have fifteen (TA) Mozart

foals coming this spring. We have a number in training with Brian Welman and Mozart will be in Scottsdale with Crystal McNutt. The Futurity program is getting better funding again, the amateur entries are growing, everybody's having a good time and we've had perfect Show weather. It's all good with us."

Reining is a "couples sport" for Michelle and Joe Betten. Joe credits Crystal McNutt for convincing Michelle to give reining a try and now their names are appearing one after another on the winners lists. Joe spoke candidly about the Futurity in saying, "Our numbers are not what we had hoped, we got hurt a little when the money went down. That's just life, people are going to show where the money is but prize money increases are coming for next year and beyond, and amateur participation is very strong. I'm excited about the future of reining. I like what Dick (Ames) has going at Cedar Ridge. I'm breeding a couple mares to TA Mozart. We're all going to keep having fun, that's for sure."

ARHA FUTURITY ATTRACTS LOYAL SPONSORS

One of those loyal sponsors, Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, is a subsidiary of Wells Fargo & Company, one the United States' largest and strongest financial institutions. In business since 1852, Wells Fargo is known and respected for its responsible stewardship of client assets.

A renowned symbol of the company's brand, the Wells Fargo Stagecoach, rolled into the Arabian Horse Show for the opening weekend of the Show, on Saturday, February 13, 2016. Show attendees were welcomed onto the Stagecoach for a firsthand experience of this American icon. "The Wells Fargo Stagecoach is a unique expression of the company's rich heritage tracing to the settlement of the West," explains David Kistner, Managing Director Market Manager of Wells Fargo Advisors. "The stagecoach symbolizes how we continue to come through for our customers and the diverse communities in which we serve."

Kyle Tack from Whitesboro, Texas has been a supporting sponsor at the ARHA Futurity since the first show. Marshall Kyle, caught hammering on a spur behind the counter of his mobile tack store, laughed, "We fix or repair just about anything." Kyle's great sense of humor combined with his "we fix anything" motto makes him a go-to-guy when any kind help is needed. This year, he was in center ring in the Equidome serving as the color commentator for the Celebrity Slide as well as Calcutta auctioneer raising money for the Futurity. Kyle Tack also generously donates their custom saddles that are cherished by the Futurity winners.

Additional returning sponsors include Markel Insurance as presenting

sponsor of the Celebrity Slide, Silver Spurs Equine, Scottsdale, AZ, and Bingham Equipment Company, Mesa, Arizona. The "Granddame of Reining", Eleanor Hamilton, of Eleanor's Arabian Farm in Rogers, Minnesota, together with her late multi-champion stallion, Hesa Zee, continue as bedrock supporters of the sport where Hesa Zee's offspring carry on his championship legacy.

OPENING WEEKEND

An expanded array of Youth classes marked the opening days of the Futurity Classic together with equitation and junior to ride classes. Late Monday afternoon reining action moved to the main stage at the Equidome with Freestyle Reining. This competition features reining maneuvers performed to the rider's choice of music, complete with coordinating costume and props, creating a high energy, unique ride by each participant.

The popular and entertaining Celebrity Slide presented by Markel Insurance followed Freestyle. This event pairs top reining trainers with novice reining riders for a few training sessions for a fun and fund-raising competition. This year's winning team was trainer Tye McDaniel, of Crystal McNutt Performance Horses, and exuberant rider Brett Becker, of Becker Stables Grass Valley, California. Becker thinks there should be more Slide events to bring people from different areas of the business together to have a great time.

And the Finals Winners Are...

Friday night's Arabian Reining Futurity opened finals weekend with Crystal McNutt and Zee Gun Slinger riding to an \$8,341 Championship for owners David and Shirley Thielman, of Spokane, Washington. Kissed in

the Mist ridden by Gary Ferguson won Reserve Champion honors for Eleanor Hamilton. Crystal McNutt claimed third place of \$4,906 riding her own AM Notorious Star. Fourth place and \$2,453 went to Nspring for the Top and Larae Fletcher Powell for owner Ingrid Bentzen of Auburn, Washington. Brian Welman and Proper Etiquette

RA claimed the fifth spot of \$2,208 for Dick Ames, Jordon, Minnesota.

The following night the Half Arabian Reining Futurity took the center stage as the top reiners competed for a top prize of nearly \$10,170. And in an exciting "ride off finish" between Andrea Fappani and Tyson Randle, Fappani took home the money on TS Mae Gossip for owner Amanda Brumley of Cave Creek, Arizona. Randle on Destined to Shine claimed \$8,605 for Gayle Pniak from Elbert, Colorado. Crystal McNutt riding TR Por Quixote won \$5,476 for Joe Betten of Grand Haven, Illinois. In fourth place, Nathan Kent on SH Smoke N Sparks, owned by Connie Cole O'Brien of Winnemaca, Nevada, claimed \$3,912.

Troy Heikes riding LJ Marshall placed fifth winning \$3,520 for Linda Jacobs from Hinsdale, Illinois. Crystal McNutt on Chocolate Valentine for owner Joe Frizzell of Ames, Iowa, won \$3,129 for sixth place. In the seventh slot, John O'Hara on Ima Smart One won \$2,347 for Buckshot Farms in Lincoln, Nebraska. Eighth place paid \$1,956 to TR Flash Flood and Crystal McNutt for owner Bryan Nelson of Houston, Texas.

A complete listing of winners, including Derby classes, is available on the ARHA website at www.arha.net

Photos by Osteen Schatzberg



Crystal McNutt rides all-time money winner, TA Mozart for owner, Dick Ames, Cedar Ridge Arabians, Jordon, MN.



Half Arabian Futurity 3rd Place, Crystal McNutt on TR Por Quixote, for Joe Betten, Grand Haven, MI.



Level 4 Champion Half Arabian Futurity, TS Mae Gossip ridden by Andrea Fappani for owner Amanda Brumley, Cave Creek, AZ.



Half Arabian Futurity 7th Place John O'Hara on Ima Smart One, for Buckshot Farms, Lincoln, NE.

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TRAINING TIPS

YOUR DISTANCE TO THE FENCE

By Khaled Assem

MOST RIDERS ARE WORRIED ABOUT GETTING THE RIGHT DISTANCE TO THE FENCE. THE QUESTION HERE IS, DO YOU SEE YOUR DISTANCE TO THE FENCE? OR DO YOU FEEL YOUR DISTANCE TO THE FENCE?

The late Mr. Paul Dararrgh, whom I always saw as one of the best coaches that ever lived, always said, "You don't see your distance, you feel your distance."

There is no magic here. The formula to success is becoming a better rider. You need to feel more comfortable in the saddle through having a good balance, good and supple position, and the ability to use your legs and rein aids independently. As the rider develops his feel for his horse he begins to develop his riding skills and eventually his feel for the distance and take off point.

Another factor that affects the ability of the rider to feel his distance is his active pace out of the turn and his actual turn coming to the fence. Yet again, those factors are influenced by the rider's balance,

form, harmony, and security. Those interrelated elements are vital in developing the rider's skill, efficiency, and ability to feel his horse, choose the right exercises and enhance the communication with his horse in order to finally feel his way through the course.

Good Balance: a balanced position allows you to ride more gently without too much strength. It leaves your upper body and lower body free to signal effectively to the horse. The rider's weight has to be balanced well in the saddle and carried equally on both legs.

Form: this has to do with the rider's position – the body, legs, arms, hands, and fingers. Every move transfers a different signal to the horse.

Being Secure: it takes well-toned

muscles to hold a good position for long periods, so building your strength and stamina will help you remain secure.

Harmony: the rider must be in harmony with his horse for the horse to respond to his aids without his movement being restricted. The rider should have the agility and flexibility to stay within his horse's movement and centre of gravity.

Photo by Kit Houghton – Complete Horse Riding Manual.

*About the author:
Eng. Khaled Assem is a certified Level 3 FEI trainer. He has been training for over 20 years, competing internationally for 10 years and locally for 25 years.*



THE ART OF CLASSICAL DRESSAGE

COLLECTION

Compiled by Emmad Eldin Zaghloul

COLLECTION IS THE SIXTH, AND FINAL, LEVEL OF THE TRAINING PYRAMID. WHEN COLLECTED, THE HORSE SHIFTS HIS WEIGHT AND THAT OF HIS RIDER FROM THE FOREHAND TO THE HINDQUARTER, THUS DISTRIBUTING THE WEIGHT MORE EVENLY BETWEEN ALL FOUR LEGS. THE JOINTS OF THE HIND LEGS BEND MORE AND HE WILL STEP FURTHER UNDERNEATH HIMSELF, RESULTING IN SHORTER, MORE ENERGETIC STEPS. THE POLL BECOMES THE HIGHEST POINT AND HE WILLINGLY FLEXES AT THE POLL AND THE JAW. AS A RESULT, THE HORSE IS BALANCED AND POISED, THE HINDQUARTER IS ENGAGED, AND THE FOREHAND IS ELEVATED (EG. UPHILL). THIS IN TURN ALLOWS THE SHOULDERS AND FOREHAND TO MOVE MORE FREELY. THE COLLECTED HORSE IS MORE EXPRESSIVE AND ELEGANT IN ITS MOVEMENT.

The physical make-up of the horse is such that the horse's hind legs are used for propelling the horse forward, while the forelimbs are weight bearing. Adding a rider increases the amount of weight that the forelimbs carry because the rider sits just behind the horse's shoulders. It must be understood that the forelimbs can be strengthened only minimally through training. The muscles of the hindquarter, however, can and must be strengthened to enable the horse to carry more of his weight on the hindquarter. The end result, if trained properly, is collection.

Collection is achieved through progressive, correct training. A great deal of patience, dedication and time is also necessary to adequately develop and strengthen the hindquarter. As training progresses and collection improves so will the horse's balance and self-carriage in all three gaits. Furthermore, collection aids in keeping the horse sound. This leads to a safer mount because the horse will maintain his footing and balance better.

Before we discuss the exercises used to develop collection, it must be said that impulsion and collection go hand in hand. Impulsion is a necessary pre-requisite for collection and, when trained correctly and continuously, produces collection. Once the horse is adequately engaging his

hindquarters through impulsion, the rider will be able to "catch" the horse's energy. This catching of energy will result in more animated steps and stepping under, the basics of collection.

When discussing the exercises used in collection, it is necessary to clarify the difference between collected exercises and collecting exercises. The primary difference is in the way these exercises are performed. In collecting exercises, the horse's head and neck are generally lower to allow the horse to use his back more. In collected exercises, the head and neck are carried higher and the horse demonstrates self-carriage.

Now that the distinction has been made, exercises for developing collection can be discussed. Collecting exercises include any exercise that encourages the horse to carry more weight on his hindquarter. These include the halt and the half halt. The rein back, in its early stages, is also a collecting exercise because the horse is allowed to perform this movement with a lowered head and neck. Shoulder-in is also used as a collecting exercise. Collected exercises include collected variations of each gait (collected canter, collected trot and collected walk), piaffe, passage, canter pirouettes and the rein back (in its later form). Sending the horse forward after

periods of collected work is a good way to test whether the collected work is being trained properly. If the horse loses his rhythm, stiffens his back or poll, resists the leg aids or falls on the bit, the training has not been done correctly. This may also be an indication that the exercise has been introduced too early in the development of the horse.

Collection is the pinnacle of the dressage training pyramid. It is not attained quickly, but rather through progressive, correct, consistent training. As the horse works through the various levels of the training pyramid, he will develop the muscle strength and flexibility required to carry himself and his rider. The horse carries his weight on the forehand in his natural state. It is the job of the rider to ensure that the horse adequately develops the muscles of the hindquarter so that the weight can be shifted more towards his hindquarter. This allows the horse's forehand to move more freely. As the horse's hindquarter becomes more and more engaged, his steps will become elevated and animated. He will move elegantly and expressively. Ultimately, developing collection will lead to a sound and safe mount that is a pleasure to ride and watch. 

Source of the article:
www.dressage-academy.com



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