



سباق الامير الدولي للفروسية والخيول
HIS THE 24th International Equestrian World Festival



نادي السباق والفروسية
RACING & EQUESTRIAN CLUB



QATAR 2015

INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE SHOW

by Fabio Brianzoni ■ photos by Fabio Brianzoni, Erwin Escher (www.ErwinEscher.com), Monika Luft (www.polskiearaby.com)

As it always does, also this year Tutto Arabi has come to Qatar to make the reportage of several sport events related to horses, organized by REC (Racing & Equestrian Club). All the competitions, shows and events made by REC normally take place inside a great and monumental sport structure located in the capital of Qatar, the city of Doha. Qatar is divided into ten municipalities and Doha is not only its capital, it is one of the main centers of interest in the nation.

Many worldwide relevant sport events - not only equestrian - take place in Doha.

Amongst all, some of the most important are surely the

Superbike World Championship in the Losail International Circuit, built in 2004, and the Italian Super Cup, which was held on sport grounds expressly built for the occasion. The FIFA World Cup will also be hosted here in 2022. The new sport facilities designed on purpose are technologically advanced and spectacularly impressive.

For more than 12 years, the bike race Tour of Qatar has been run during 4 days through the streets of Qatar. Since 1993 the most talented world tennis players have been competing for the ATP World Cup. Many renowned Golf Cups are hosted in the golf greens in Doha.

Doha is also home to the horses of the most extended and

relevant stud farm in Qatar: Al Shaqab, which is truly an equestrian town, built following meticulous landscape architectural standards. It hosts more than 500 boxes, enormous paddocks, a horse training swimmingpool, vet clinics and much more.

Al Shaqab Stud boasts of several world champions, progenitors of dominant bloodlines.

The Qatar National Museum, the Weaponry Museum, the suq, a lot of covered markets where to buy handcrafted jewels and more, are only some of the places where one can breathe the culture and traditions of Qatar. One other important symbol of the Qatar's past history is the Pearl Monument that testifies to the importance of a traditional craftsmanship, one of the main activities in the area until a few years ago: the pearls handcraft.

Deserts around the cities are dotted with suggestive archeological sites and forts.

Let's talk now about the equestrian events: the International Arabian Horses Ecaho Show, the Straight Egyptian Horses Show, the Riding Class and the races have been part of an amazing horse Festival organized under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani. The Festival took place from 19th to 26th of February.

For the Opening Gala the main guest was Lorenzo, the "Flying French Man", the artist famous all over the world for his acrobatic evolutions with free horses.

After his performance it was the turn of the typically Italian Sbandieratori di Gubbio, "men waving flags" coming from the small town of Gubbio, and of a dancing horse inside a giant sphere acting together with a dancer girl.



Mr Abdulaziz Abdulrahman Al Subaie. The Show Committee Secretariat: Mr Mohamed Ali Mohamed Abd Elghaffar, Mr Saad Ali Al Kubaisi, Mr Fajar Sadiq, Mr Mohammed Mahmoud Sherif.

The 3 days International Show - 19/21 February - was judged by Mrs. Irina Stigler (Russia), Mrs. Sylvia Garde-Ehlert (Germany), Mrs. Anne Norden (Sweden), Mr. Francesco Santoro (Italy), Mr. Marek Trela (Poland), Mr. Yves Richardier (France) and Mr. Marc Veray (France). Dr. Laura Mascagna (Italy), Mrs. Ann Svensson (Sweden), Dr. Mohamed Hammad (Egypt) and Mrs. Vivian Reisel (Netherlands) were the Disciplinary Committee. Ring Master was Mr. Sven Svensson who with his wife gave the perfect timing to the show. 238 horses were entered and 16 classes mostly divide in A and B sections were showed.

As often is done, the rule applied to award is the Top Five method.

Here below we give you the first two awarded in each class. The complete scoring and the results of the whole show are available are on www.arabianhorsesresults.com and www.ecaho.com.

The first category, fillies aged 1 year (class A), was won by "BOHOUR AL SHAQAB" (Kahil Al Shaqab X Wind Kamila) owned and bred by Al Shaqab Stud, second place to "SHAMS AL SHAGIR" (Aja Sangali X Sadikah Al Shagir) owned by Mr. Abdul Mohsen Bin Abdul Malik Al Al-Shaikh. Class B was won by "SULTANAT AL SHAQAB" (Marwan Al Shaqab X OFW Mishaal) owned and bred by Al Shaqab Stud. Second "HAJER AL MUAWD" (Emerald J X Primera) owned by Sons of Abdulla Bin Mohammed Al Subaiei.

Second category, the 2 years old fillies class (A): the winner



The spectacular show of brighting drums played by a local band concluded this extraordinary Opening Night.

The perfect organization was in the hands of the expert staff led by the Chairman of Higher Organising Committee Sheikh Mohamed Bin Faleh Al Thani, General Coordinator of the festival Mr. Sami Jassim Al Boenain, Vice Chairman of Higher Organising Committee Mr. Ghanim Bin Ali Al Mohannadi, Show Director & Chairman of Technical Committee Mr. Abdulaziz Jassim Al Boenain, Deputy Director of Show





was "AJ REEDA" (Aj Portofino X Aj Raheda) owned and bred by Ajman Stud. Second was "ESHILA" (Khail Al Shaqab X Estaka) owned by Al Rajhia Stud. For the class B: first was "MOUNIRA J" (Emerald J X Magnificent Lady J) owned by Sons of Abdulla Bin Mohammed Al Subaiei, and second was "ORLA TURNIA" (Shanghai Ea X Orlanka) owned by Al Tumama Stud.

The 3 years old fillies category (class A) was won by "SAHWAT AL KHALEDIAH" (El Palacio VO X Layan Al Khalediah) owned and bred by HRHP Khaled Bin Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. Second place to "PENELOPE K.A." (Qr Marc X Polonia) owned by Al Tumama Stud.

The class B was won by "PIACOLLA" (Enzo X Polonica) owned by HRHP Khaled Bin Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. Second to "PYRONIA KA" (Qr Marc X Polonia) owned by Mr. Nasser Bin Abdul Lateef Al Fouzan.

Also the yearlings colts categories were splitted in A and B: the first one was won by "MONEER AL SHAQAB" (Marwan

Al shaqab X Miss El Power Jq) owned and bred by Al Shaqab Stud. Second place to "RASHID AL MANSOURAIHA" (Al Farid X Primavera Pwa) owned and bred by Mr. Ahmed Bin Eisa Mohammed Al Mahana. The second class was won by "AMAAR AL NASSER" (EKS Alihandro X Remal Al Nasser) owned and bred by Al Nasser Stud. Second place to "TAJ AL FAYYAD" (Fayad Al Fayyad X S.S. Layali) owned by Mosleh Hamad Al Enezi.

In the 2 years old colts category was first in class "LOAY AL KHALEDIAH ALTHANI" (El Palacio Vo X Llayla) owned and bred by HRHP Khaled Bin Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, second place to "AJ MARZAN" (Aj Portofino X Hed Ab Maria) Owned and bred by Ajman Stud.

The 3 years old colts: "HADIDY AL SHAQAB" (Gazal Al Shaqab X White Silk) owned and bred by Al Shaqab Stud was the winner. The second place was for "ASFOOR AL WAAB" (Barraq El Aliya X Sara Ali Jazira) owned and bred by Sheikh Abdulla Bin Khalid Al Thani.



Then it was the turn of the 4 to 6 years old mares: "PERFINKA" (Esparto X Perfirka) owned by Sons of Abdulla Bin Mohammed Al Subaiei was the winner. Second place to "MARGHOBAT AL NAIIF" (Marwan Al shaqab X Batoul Al Naif) owned by Sheikh Abdulla Bin Nasser Al Ahmed Al Thani.

In the 7 to 10 years old mares class the winner was "ANOOD AL NASSER" (Ashhal Al Rayyan X Aleysha Al Nasser) owned by Sheik Nawaf Bin Nasser Al Thani is winner. "D'AAJA AL NAIIF" (Al Adeed Al shaqab X Menza Al rayyan) owned by Sheikh Abdulla Bin Khalid Al Thani was in the second place. The beautiful category of 11 years old and more mares was won by "NORMA" (Gazal Al Shaqab X Nina) owned by Sons of Abdulla Bin Mohammed Al Subaiei. Second placement to "PINGA" (Gazal al shaqab X Pilar) owned by Mr. Mohammed Bin Dalim Al Otaibi.

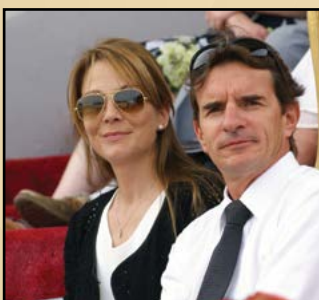
The big category of the stallions aged 4 to 6 years was splitted in two classes, A and B: the first class was won by "LAMMAH AL FAHADEAH" (Marquis CAHR X Destiny Bint Eternity) owned and bred by HRHP Khaled Bin Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud. Second place to "GHASHAM AL SHAQAB" (Al Adeed Al Shaqab X Gazala Al Shaqab) owned and bred by Al Shaqab Stud. The class B was won by "MASCOT DES ALPES" (Marwan Al Shaqab X E.A.M.T. Marihuana) owned by Al Naifat Stud. The second was

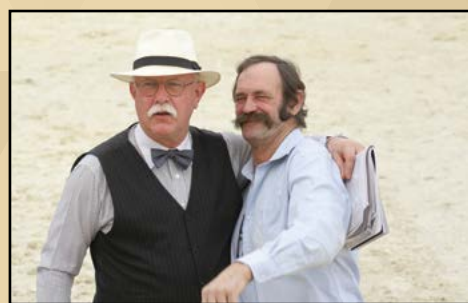
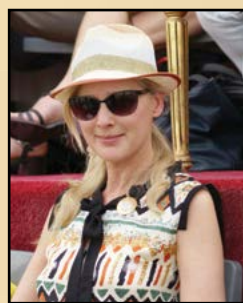
"JAMIL AL SHAHANIA" (Marwan Al Shaqab X Majaarani) owned by Mr Osama Omar Al Dafa.

The stallions category, 7 to 10 years old, was won by "MEMPHIS 27" (El Amin X SA Misha Apal) owned by Ajman Stud. "MOUNTASSAR AL ZOBAIR" (Khidar X Fahla Al Shaqab) owned by Mr. Mohammed Bin Dalim Al Otaibi was second.

Also the last stallions category was amazing. It was won by "BS PAPARAZZI" (Kar Papageno X Sivka) owned by Sheik Abdul Mohsen Bin Abdul Malek Al Sheikh. Second in class was "IM BAYARD CATHARE" (Padrons Image X Shamilah Bagheera) owned by the Royal Cavalry.

Enjoy the pictures of the beautiful medals champions took by Erwin Escher. □







GOLD MEDAL YEARLING FILLIES SULTANAT AL SHAQAB

MARWAN AL SHAQAB x OFW MISHAAHL
O&B: AL SHAQAB (QA)

INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE SHOW



GOLD MEDAL YEARLING COLTS AMAAR AL NASSER

EKS ALIHANDRO x REEMA AL NASSER
O&B: AL NASSER STUD (QA)



GOLD MEDAL FILLIES PIACOLLA

ENZO x POLONICA

O: HRHP ABDULAZIZ BIN AHMED BIN ABDUL AZIZ AL SAUD (KSA) - B: MICHALOW STUD (PL)

INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE SHOW



GOLD MEDAL COLTS LOAY AL KHALEDIAH ALTHANI

EL PALACIO VO x LLAYLA

O&B: HRPH KHALED BIN SULTAN BIN ABDUL AZIZ AL SAUD (KSA)



GOLD MEDAL MARES NORMA

GAZAL AL SHAQAB x NINA

O: SONS OF ABDULLAH BIN MOHAMED AL SUBAIE (KSA) - B: SK MICHALOW STUD (PL)

INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE SHOW



GOLD MEDAL STALLIONS

MEMPHIS 27

EL AMIN x SA MISHA APAL

O: AJMAN STUD (AE) - B: J. SWAENPOEL (BE)



SILVER MEDAL YEARLING FILLIES BOHOUR AL SHAQAB

KAHIL AL SHAQAB x WIND KAMILA
O&B: AL SHAQAB (QA)



BRONZE MEDAL YEARLING FILLIES HAJER AL MUAWD

EMERALD J x PRIMERA
O: AL MUAWD STUD (KSA) - B: MR. M.A. AL SUBAIE (GB)

INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE SHOW



SILVER MEDAL YEARLING COLTS MONEER AL SHAQAB

MARWAN AL SHAQAB x MISS EL POWER JQ
O&B: AL SHAQAB (QA)



BRONZE MEDAL YEARLING COLTS TAJ AL FAYYAD

FAYAD AL FAYYAD x S.S. LAYALI
O&B: MOSLEH HAMAD AL ENEZI (KW)



SILVER MEDAL FILLIES

AJ REEDA

AJ PORTOFINO x AJ RAHEDA

O&B: AJMAN STUD (AE)



BRONZE MEDAL FILLIES

MOUNIRA J

EMERALD J x MAGNIFICENT LADY J

O: SONS OF ABDULLAH BIN MOHAMMED AL SUBAIE (KSA) - B: C. JAMAR-DEMEERSSEMAN (BE)

INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE SHOW



SILVER MEDAL COLTS HADIDY AL SHAQAB

GAZAL AL SHAQAB x WHITE SILKK
O&B: AL SHAQAB (QA)



BRONZE MEDAL COLTS ASFOOR AL WAAB

BARRAQ EL ALIYA x SARA ALI JAZIRA
O&B: SH. ABDULLA BIN KHALID AL THANI (QA)



SILVER MEDAL MARES ANOOD AL NASSER

ASHHAL AL RAYYAN x ALEYSHA AL NASSER

O: SH. NAWAF BIN NASSER AL THANI (QA) - B: MR. ABDULAZIZ MOHAMMED AL QAYED (QA)



BRONZE MEDAL MARES PINGA

GAZAL AL SHAQAB x PILAR

O: M. MOHAMMED BIN DALIM AL OTAIBI (KSA) - B: S.K. JANOW PODLASKI (PL)

INTERNATIONAL ARABIAN HORSE SHOW



SILVER MEDAL STALLIONS LAMMAH AL FAHADEAH

MARQUIS CAHR x DESTINY BINT ETERNITY-D
O&B: HRPB FAHAD BIN SULTAN BIN ABDUL AZIZ AL SAUD (KSA)



BRONZE MEDAL STALLIONS GHASHAM AL SHAQAB

AL ADEED AL SHAQAB x GAZALA AL SHAQAB
O&B: AL SHAQAB (QA)

STRAIGHT EGYPTIAN SHOW

by Fabio Brianzoni ■ photos by Erwin Escher (www.ErwinEscher.com)



22nd and 23rd of February were dedicated to the Straight Egyptian Show and to the 151 Straight Egyptian horses entered, judged by Mrs. Anna Stojanowska (Poland), Mrs. Renata Schibler (Switzerland), Mr. Nashaat Hegazy (Egypt), Mr. Manfred Hain (Germany), Mr. Pierluigi Rota (Italy) and Mr. Tamas Rombauer (Hungary). The show staff staid the same and Mr. Anas HosamAkawi remained our English and Arabic speaker.

The 1 year old fillies category was won by "MONERA AL WAAB" (By Barraaq El Aliya X Ajmal Moneera) owned and bred by Sheikh Abdulla Bin Khalid Al Thani. Second place to "TARAHEEB AL NASSER" (Al Adeed Al Shaqab X Al Jazi Al Nasser) owned and bred by Al Nasser Stud with the same score of "MAHA AL WAAB".

The class of the fillies aged 2 years was divided in A and B: the first one was won by "SHEHANA AL SHAQAB" (Shaheen Al Waab X Laian Al Shaqab) owned and bred by Al Shaqab Stud. Second place to "SALIMA AL NASSER" (Farres X Noora Al Nasser) owned by Al Nasser Stud. The B class was won by two fillies both owned and bred by Sheikh Abdulla Bin Khalid Al Thani: "DELELAH AL WAAB" (Barraq Al Aliya X Nabeela Saqr) was first and "AL JAZI AL WAAB" (Safir Al Rayyan X Jawaher Al Sharq) was second. The 3 years old fillies class was won by "TIBRAH AL SHAQAB" (Farhoud Al Shaqab X Twom Hiddiyya) owned and bred by Al Shaqab Stud. Second place to "AL JOHARA AL WAAB" (Ansata Selman X Al Angha Al Rayyan) owned and bred by Sheikh Abdulla Bin Khalid Al Thani.

Then it was the turn of the 1 year old colts: "SAFIR UMM AL UDHAM" (Shagran Al Nasser X Safirah Al Shaqab) owned and bred by Mr. Mesfer Mohammed Mesfer Mesfer Al Hajiri won the first place. In the second place "SULTAN AL DHABI" (Ansata Selman X Reem Al Waab) owned by Al

Maroona Stud.

"SALIL AL SHAQAB" (Al Adeed Al Shaqab X Tamina) owned and bred by Al Shaqab Stud was first in the 2 years old colts C category. "MOUNTASER LAFFAN" (Ansata Nile Echo X Authentic Monisa) owned and bred by Mr. Jassim Kayed Mohammed Al Muhannadi was second.

The last class of 3 years old colts was won by "ASFOOR AL WAAB" (Barraq El Aliya X Sara Al Jazira) owned and bred by Sheikh Abdulla Bin Khalid Al Thani. Second place to "SAFIR AL SAAD" (Dawas Al Nasser X RG Atiya) owned and bred by Mr. Mohammed Bin Ali Bu Saad.

The first category of mares aged 4 to 6 years was divided into A and B. The class A was won by "SHALFA AL RAYYAN" (Ansata Nile Echo X G Shafaria) owned by Sheikh Abdulla Bin Khalid Al Thani. Second place to "SHAHEDAT AL KHALEDIAH" (Arban X Thee Evening Star) owned and bred by HRP Khalid Bin Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. First in the class B with the highest score of the show (93.75) was "NABILA AL RAYYAN" (Sinan Al Rayyan X Ansata Nefer Isis) owned by Sheikh Saoud Bin Abdulaziz Al Thani. Second was "YAKOUTAH AL SHAQAB" (Al Adeed Al Shaqab X Badawieh Al Shaqab) owned and bred by Al Shaqab Stud.

Double victory for the owner Sheikh Abdulla Bin Khalid Al Thani in the category of 7 to 10 years old mares: "JOUNA AL NAIF" (Ashhal Al Rayyan X Ansata Mouna) won the first place and in second place was "D'AAJAA AL NAIF" (Al Adeed Al Shaqab X Mezna Al Rayyan).

The last category of mares aged 11 years was won by "AUTHENTIC MONISA" (Nabeel II X Monisa Halima) owned by Mr. Jassim Kayed Mohammed Al Muhannadi. Second in class was "FARIAL RAHIM" (Farid Al Badeia





X Set El Hosn Rahim) owned by Mr. Abdullah Fahad Al Ahmad.

We concluded the wonderful show with the last 3 stallions classes.

The 4 to 6 years old class was won by "HAYAB AL NAIFAT" (Rabeh Al Rayyan X Muhiba Al Naifat) owned by HRHP Mohammed Bin Saud Bin Naif Al Saud. Second place to "MEDAN ELALYA" (Ashhal Al Rayyan X Torfa Al Shaqab) owned by Mr. Mohammed Ali Mohammed Al Kuwari.

The second class of stallions aged 7 to 10 years was won by "SHAGRAN AL NASSER" (Ansata Selman X Dana Al Nasser) owned and bred by Al Nasser Stud. Second place to "TAMMAM AL NASSER" (Ansata Selman X Jamila Al Nasser) owned by Mr. Fahad Bin Abdullah Al Hajri.

The last but not least, the 11 years old stallions class.

The winner was "F SHAMAAL" (Maysoun X Saramena)



owned and bred by HRHP Khalid Bin Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the second place was for "TURKY AL RAYYAN" (Ashhal Al Rayyan X Turkiya Al Rayyan) owned by Khalid Ahmed Bagedo – Al Khalid Farm.

It is a pleasure to show you here below the pictures of the Gold, the Silver and the Bronze Medal Champions.

Enjoy! ☐





GOLD MEDAL FILLIES DELIELAH AL WAAB

BARRAQ EL ALIYA x NABEELA SAQR
O&B: SH. ABDULLA BIN KHALID AL THANI (QA)

STRAIGHT EGYPTIAN SHOW



GOLD MEDAL COLTS ASFOOR AL WAAB

BARRAQ EL ALIYA x SARA ALI JAZIRA
O&B: SH. ABDULLA BIN KHALID AL THANI (QA)



GOLD MEDAL MARES NABILA AL RAYYAN

SINAN AL RAYYAN x ANSATA NEFER ISIS

O: SH. SAUD BIN ABDULAZIZ AL THANI (QA) - B: AL RAYYAN FARM (QA)

STRAIGHT EGYPTIAN SHOW



GOLD MEDAL STALLIONS SHAGRAN AL NASSER

ANSATA SELMAN x DANA AL NASSER
O&B: AL NASSER STUD (QA)



SILVER MEDAL FILLIES TIBRAH AL SHAQAB

FARHOUD AL SHAQAB x TWOM HIDDIYYA
O&B: AL SHAQAB (QA)



BRONZE MEDAL FILLIES TARAHEEB AL NASSER

AL ADEED AL SHAQAB x AL JAZI AL NASSER
O&B: AL NASSER STUD (QA)

STRAIGHT EGYPTIAN SHOW



SILVER MEDAL COLTS SALIL AL SHAQAB

AL ADEED AL SHAQAB x TAMINA
O&B: AL SHAQAB (QA)



BRONZE MEDAL COLTS MOUNTASER LAFFAN

ANSATA NILE ECHO x AUTHENTIC MONISA
O&B: R. JASSIM KAYED MOHAMMED AL MUHANNADI (QA)



SILVER MEDAL MARES JOUNA AL NAIF

ASHHAL AL RAYYAN x ANSATA MOUNA

O: SH. ABDULLA BIN KHALID AL THANI (QA) - B: AL NAIF STUD (QA)



BRONZE MEDAL MARES D'AAJAA AL NAIF

AL ADEED AL SHAQAB x MEZNA AL RAYYAN

O: SH. ABDULLA BIN KHALID AL THANI (QA) - B: AL NAIF STUD (QA)

STRAIGHT EGYPTIAN SHOW



SILVER MEDAL STALLIONS F SHAMAAL

MAYSOUN x SARAMEENA

O&B: HRHP KHALED BIN SULTAN BIN ABDULAZIZ AL SAUD (KSA)



BRONZE MEDAL STALLIONS TURKI AL RAYYAN

ASHHAL AL RAYYAN x TURKIYA AL RAYYAN

O: KHALID AHMED BAGEDO - AL KHALID FARM (KSA) - B: AL RAYYAN FARM (QA)

750 THOUSAND EURO IN ONE RACE!



by Monika Luft ■ photos by Monika Luft (www.polskiearaby.com)

A race meeting with the most important stakes for The Emir's Sword, with a purse of 3 million Qatari riyals, was a part of the eight day gala in Qatar's capital city of Doha, by the name of The Emir 24th International Equestrian Sword Festival, under the patronage of the Emir of Qatar, Prince Tamim Bin Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani.

The culmination of the three day race meeting (February 24th-26th), attended by the world racing elite, mainly from France and the UK, was a race for 4 year old and older Arabian horses – H.H. The Emir's Sword (Gr 1 PA) over a distance of 2,400 m. The race was held for the first time in 1989 and in 2012 it was pushed to February so that it could be part of the Festival. It was in this race that the largest amount of prize money was to be given out – as much as 3 million riyals (about 750 thousand Euro)! A victory in this race is the dream of every trainer, jockey and horse owner in Qatar. However before the most important moment, there were 9 races for Arabians and Thoroughbreds during the first two days, as well as a dinner gala in the banquet hall of the luxury Saint Regis hotel, attended by, among others, world renown French tennis player, winner of the 2013

Wimbledon, Marion Bartoli, who has been riding since youth and an ambassador of the Qatar Festival since last year.

The facility where the meeting took place, the track on the premises of the Qatar Racing & Equestrian Club, which plays a major role on the international racing scene today, is a recognizable brand. Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, with HE Sheikh Mohamed Bin Faleh Al Thani as the head of the Board of Directors, was the pioneer of racing organization in the entire region, as well as in establishing the rules for racing sports in Qatar. Today the facility hosts 60 racing days per season (between October and May) on a modernized in 2001 Al Rayyan Racecourse, which has at its disposal a grass track (1,600 m in length and 27 m wide) and – built in 2011 – a sand track (1,590 in length and 17 m wide). In the 2014/2015 season 272 Arabian horses participated in the races, among them 175 bred in Qatar. The best of them, after ending the season in the Middle East, will continue their career on foreign tracks, also European ones. On a regular racing day there is about 2,000 people, but as Director General Sami Jassim Al Boenain told us, the



H.H. Sh. Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Thani



H.H. Sh. Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Thani with trainer Jassim Al Ghazali (on the right) and Khalifa Al Kuwari (with the Silver Sword)



Trainer Jassim Al Ghazali



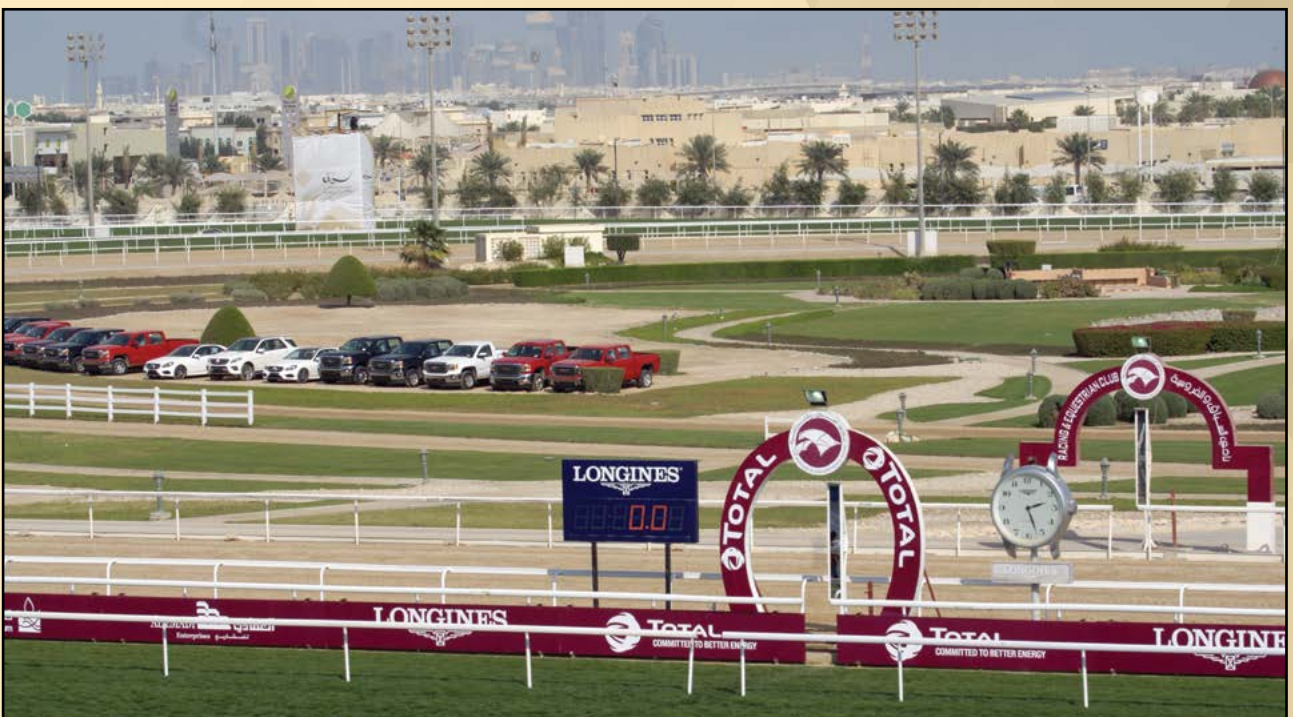
H.H. Sh. Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Thani with the winner of the Silver Spear, Mr. Mishal Bin Ali Al Attiya (left)



Julien Augé atop Al Mourtazez, the winner of the Emir's Gold Sword (Al Shaqab Racing)



Emir's Gold Sword





H.H. Sh. Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Thani with Khalifa Al Kuwari (with the Silver Sword)

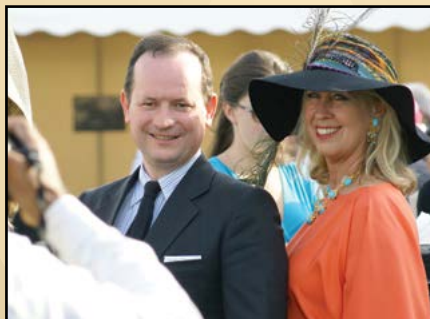
race on the last day of the Festival could've been witnessed by even 10 thousand people! It's true, the tribunes were bursting at the seams.

The triumph of this great race, winner of the Golden Sword and 1,710 thousand riyals for Al Shaqab Racing was the experienced jockey Julien Augé atop the trained by Thomas Fourcy horse Al Mourtazez (Daheess – Arwa/Nuits St Georges). In turn the Silver Sword (and the prize of 570 thousand riyals from a prize pool of one million riyals) from the hands of Prince Abdullah bin Khalif Al Tani, the uncle of the Emir of Qatar, went to the 14 year old Khalifa Al Kuwari, the owner of the equine winner of the sixth race – H.H. The Emir's Silver Sword (Gr 1) for 4 year old Arabian horses of Qatar ownership over a distance of 1,850 m. This horse is the unbeaten so far Al Murabitoon (AF Albahar – Opale du Croate/Dormane). He is trained by Jassim Al Ghazali, the top trainer in Qatar, who has almost 200 horses under his care. Al Ghazali, who began his career 19 years ago, is associated today with Al Shaqab Racing, among others. During the last season he won 140 races. Murabitoon was led by the West Sussex native, 24 year old Harry Bentley, a revelation of the past season, winner of the December Qatar Derby (atop Dubday) and 31 other races. "You are only ever as good as the horses you are riding", he said in one of his interviews. "I am lucky that I ride for Jassim Al Ghazali, who has a lot of good horses."



The races were accompanied by not only sports emotions. French millionaire Laurence Bossion once again took up the task of singling out the most elegant women from among the audience and convincing them to participate in the "Competition of Elegance" contest. Here we must add that during the main events of the entire Festival a dress code was obligatory – men were asked to come in national attires or in suit and tie and the women were advised to wear dresses at least knee-length and to resign from wearing shoulder strap tops.

For sure the guests left the comfortable tribunes of the Racing & Equestrian Club with a strong belief that the last week of February in Doha is the place to be. Definitely the hospitality and thoughtfulness of the organizers were a huge asset of the entire event. □





OPEN HOUSE



photos by
Andre Shiwa, Ziggy Wellens

See you next year!



Photo: www.ErwinEscher.com ©