

# EEC Rider



GULF NEWS



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# EEC Rider

Welcome from Paul McAuley – General Manager



Welcome to the new season at Emirates Equestrian Centre. I know I speak for all our EEC staff members when I say we are delighted to host new and returning clients at our Open Day, as well as launching the first edition of our EEC Rider newsletter.

Readers of this newsletter will receive news and reviews on our active show jumping, dressage, eventing and cross-country scenes and clinics. We will also share special features from our farriers and vets, some 'where are they now?' pieces from past clients, lots of photos and the popular 'groom of the month' highlight.

The long, hot summer is finally drawing to a close and we now have plenty to look forward to in the coming months. As a BHS-approved training centre we are blessed with top-class facilities and excellent staff and pride ourselves on catering to every level of rider.

Our extremely popular Pony Club is also BHS approved and gives young riders a solid and fun grounding in all aspects of horse care and riding while at the other end of the spectrum we have staff capable of coaching to Prix St George standard in dressage.

We are home to the highly accomplished Dubai Show Jumping Team and maintain a string of quality riding school horses and ponies. We have recently received a boost to our school ponies with 12 new additions in May 2015 and I'm very pleased to say that they are now ready for use by the riding school.

This is my 11<sup>th</sup> season as manager of the EEC and in my time here I have been lucky enough to witness first-hand the rapid development of horse sport in the wider UAE and Dubai in particular. Part of this growth is due to the provision of top quality events by the country's riding centres such as EEC, to organise and host professional-quality competitions and clinics.

Every season the EEC's calendar consists of events ranging from training competitions to international-level shows, highlighted by the Dubai Show Jumping Championship in January which regularly attracts top-class riders from the region and further afield.

The Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) World Dressage Challenge comes to the EEC in April while during the season we also have four National Show Jumping shows, six National Dressage shows the Dubai Dressage Championship, 14 hugely popular training shows in dressage and show jumping and four eventing/horse trial shows.

We hope you'll agree that we have plenty to look forward to this season and we can't wait to get started!

Paul

# Dressage

by Lilian Sternvad

The UAE and EEC saw good developments last season with EEC, Desert Palm and Dubai Polo & Equestrian Club each hosting five shows. The season ended with their Championship finals in March and April. The number of riders competing at other yards increased, which was beneficial for both horse and rider to gain more experience and compete against new competitors.

In November we hosted the FEI World Dressage Challenge 2014. It was early in the season for us yet we had a good number of riders competing and fabulous results. Line Moen on Khattar W'rsan took the top spot in the group Medium class, Tracy Wyngard-Gill on Liisa Kirkwood's Pabe won the Elementary, Cristina Calin-Thompson, who always produces a good result, took the third in Advanced, and in the Prelim Junior class Isabelle Odenbach on Corfu placed third in their first season together. Our riding school horses Sir Athlone with Lauren Hattin and Ballintekin Rocky with Jane Hicks did very well and placed 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in a big Preliminary Senior class. The UAE claimed group second.

The UAE's biggest dressage show is held at Bou Thieb in Abu Dhabi and this year organised by W'rsan Stables new manager Line Moen. Our EEC riders represented us well and achieved great results.

The season ended with the Sharjah Equestrian Club hosted UAE Championship sponsored by EEC. It was a new experience for the riders to compete in SERC's new arena. Lovely!

# EEC Dubai Pony Club

by Jennifer Forde

The EEC's Pony Club will soon launch its new schedule.

There will be a full programme, meeting on Thursdays, focusing on all aspects of riding, stable management, day clinics, fun days, competition badges, progressive riding tests and achievement badges and not forgetting Pony Club parties. The highlight is Pony Club Camp held at the end of March.

"The Thelwells"- Lead rein (aged 5-7)

Blue Group- walk, trot and canter (aged 7-9)

Green Group- walk, trot, canter and starting to jump (aged 9-12)

Red Group – competition riders (12 upwards)

The Red Group meets Sundays, Blue and Green Groups meet on alternate Thursdays and Thelwells to be confirmed. Everyone develops skills and knowledge at their own pace. Therefore instructors may ask members to change groups if it will benefit the rider.

The most exciting news is the introduction of a fantastic new section for teenagers. **The Young Equestrian Scheme** is a new programme launched by Pony Club head office in the UK. This group will meet on Sundays and the focus will be to encourage the development of new skills within the equestrian field and help/mentor younger members.

This, along with riding, stable management and looking at the bigger picture of equestrian life will lead to awards and certificates, giving greater recognition in academic life. We are honoured to be included in this new initiative. Members will be invited to help out with the National shows with course building, time and score keeping and other tasks that go on behind the scenes.

All members of EEC pony club must be five years or above and regular EEC clients.

Please contact: Jennifer Forde at  
dubaiponyclub@emiratesequestriancentre.com





## Dubai Showing Jumping Team Update

by Abdulla Al Marri

Last season members of Dubai Show Jumping Team, sponsored by Emirates Equestrian Centre, Dubai Equestrian Club, Fujairah Royal Stables and FBH stables achieved a number of exciting developments.

Maitha Al Hajri, the Dubai Show Jumping Team and Fujairah Royal Stables (FRS) rider embarked on a tour of Europe after winning the Longines Medium Tour on Alaska, beating Omar Khoory and Quapitola into second.

I was delighted after winning the Young Horses section with AMS Catch Me, while Ahmed Falaknaz finished second with his own mare, Saraya. My horse Sierra FBH, my Asian Games partner and I, also managed to finish in second on the last day of the season in the UAE championship, while Narcissist FBH was crowned second in the Locals FBH Show Jumping League. Such great results for the whole team, which has motivated them to achieve more this summer.

Much of this success is thanks to the support of our sponsors. We are lucky to have them and happy that we have proven we are worth the investment.

During the European season the team divided the horses between two locations, mainly because of logistics and shows. The first group included Team Trainer Alice Debany, Arif Ahmad, Omar and their horses and was based near the French capital. While the other group was based in Normandy (Deauville) near the main base of Her Highness Shaikha Latifa Al Maktoum. This group included myself, Maitha, Ahmed and Mohammed Ketait.

The summer plan of the Team riders included approximately 11 horse shows. These shows were decided on the riders' schedule and their horses and of course the month of Ramadan played a crucial role. Two main horses, Alaska and Sama Dubai FBH, will be breeding through embryo transfer this summer, which means they will be missing the first part of the summer shows. Also, a new purchase, Loreana a five-year-old daughter of Sama Dubai FBH is also involved in the embryo transfer project, which is very exciting.

All horses arrived safely in Europe in the first week of June. The main objective was to get the horses fit for their first show in Canteleu. This saw the following riders participate successfully, Alice riding Alanis, Amareusa and Brussels Sitte, Maitha riding Randi's Rebel, Ketait riding Cupido and Kali W Z and finally myself riding Sierra FBH, Narcissist FBH, AMS Catch Me and Saraya. The first day of the show saw Alice getting placed fifth with her mount Brussel Sitte in the 135cm and she followed that with another fifth on the second day with the same horse. Day two also witnessed myself and Sierra FBH winning the CSI 1\* GP Qualifier followed by a third-place finish with Narcissist FBH in the 125cm speed class. On the third day of the show I managed another win in the CSI 1\* Mini Grand Prix (130cm) riding Narcissist FBH with Mohammed Ketait and Kali W Z finishing in fifth place.

We also took a contingent to Italy this August for the first time. In the past the logistics had prevented us from travelling so far, so a lot of planning was involved.

One of the biggest reasons why we made the effort was the fact that there were a lot of Young Horse classes in Italy and all Dubai Show Jumping Team riders are interested in bringing on their young horses.

The first week in Italy started with the CSI 3\* in San Giovanni. Alice and Arif's Elise, a daughter of my own Grand Prix horse Sierra FBH, finished second while Arif's Chestnut Champion, finished tenth. Arif kept his form and came eighth on his other new seven year old, Colin M.

**"Much of this success is thanks to the great support of our sponsors. We are lucky to have such brilliant support and we are happy that we have proven over the years that we are worth the investment."**

On the final day of the Young Horses Grand Prix, Alice and Elise managed to claim second again. Alice followed with another great performance on her own Grand Prix horse Amareusa S (by the Olympic Champion, Balobet du Rouet) finishing sixth in the GP qualifier on Friday.

Omar participated with Team Harmony's Trilogy for the first time this summer and had no rails down with a consistent performance third and seventh on the last two days.

Ahmad, Maitha and I joined the team in Italy for the second week of San Giovanni. Al Ain FBH, my newest six-year-old, jumped two slow clear rounds on days one and two in Young Horses classes.

I had a great start in the 2\* competition, finishing second with Sama Dubai FBH and eighth with Narcissist FBH, while Omar and Team Harmony's Trilogy finished fifth in the 135cm Speed Class.

Omar Khoory and Trilogy stepped up their game and jumped their first 140cm of the summer, finishing tenth, showing they will be a combination to watch for next season. Meanwhile Maitha and Randi's Rebel finished in second in the 120cm speed class.

On the last day of competition I claimed second in the 130cm speed class on Sierra FBH, and wrapped up the weekend up with fourth place in the Grand Prix of San Giovanni on Sama Dubai FBH.

After two successful weeks at San Giovanni, we moved to our final show of the summer in Cervia. Many great names have competed there, including the Whitaker brothers, Nick Skelton and Ludgar Beerbaum and the team enjoyed some great results.

Maitha and Alaska were back in form after a long break and finished third in the 130cm jump off while my own AMS Catch Me was in fourth with only 0.65 seconds between us. I was then second in the 135cm class with Narcissist just 0.03 seconds behind the winner! The final class of the day was the hotly-contested 145cm Ranking Class and Grand Prix qualifier, I rode Sama Dubai FBH and we took an early lead until Italian Veteran Arnaldo Bogni (Olympic, World Championship and European championship rider) took the lead by 0.55 seconds.

Ahmad Falaknaz and Saraya stepped up to the 130cm and had a super performance in sixth while I was second and third with AMS Catch me and Narcissist in the mini Grand Prix.

The final day saw myself and Al Ain FBH finish second in the Young Horses Final, Ahmad Falaknaz was also second with Team Harmony's Trilogy in the small GP and ninth with Saraya in the 130cm final.

Overall it was a great summer tour for the whole team and we are looking forward to our next season in the UAE.

# Groom of the Month

April/May/June

The highly prestigious Groom of the Month awards are presented to the top three grooms, who portrayed the most dedication and service to their work. Above are the award winners and runners up for the months of April, May and June, accompanied by Stable Supervisor Feroz, EEC Manager, Paul McAuley and Yard Manager & Head Instructor, Lilian Sternvad. Winner for the month of April was Malak Fazal Ellahi; runners up were Gulam Murtazaa Fazal Din and Iftakar Ahmed. The May winner was Ali Sher Khan Kayam Khan with runners up Peeru Ismail Ranipet Ismail and Mohammed Islammudin Khan. Finally winner for the month of June was Mohammed Sabri Khan with runners up Faruk Khan Hakam Ali Khan and Aman Ullah Inayat Ullah. Congratulations to them all.



## Livery at EEC

Emirates Equestrian Centre accommodates approximately 165 horses including the Dubai Show Jumping Team horses, riding school horses and liveries. Much care and attention goes into maintaining our 70-75 liveries in top condition. This takes an army of staff, including 48 grooms, drivers and maintenance staff as well as management and instructors, who are all involved in livery care as well as the riding school. EEC has been caring for horses for more than 20 years and we really do know how to keep our clients satisfied and horses happy and healthy.

All livery clients have access to top-quality services including veterinary and dentistry from Dubai Equine Hospital, an on-site farrier and schooling and/or lunging by qualified instructors.

The feed, provided by a local feed mill, is regularly checked and tested by the supplier in its laboratory to ensure the standard remains high. EEC requests regular checks to be made on the hay supply to ensure our horses get the best forage. Two types of hay are supplied - local Omani hay and imported Timothy hay. Each month EEC takes delivery of a 40ft container of Timothy hay, 2,000 bales of Omani hay and 5,200 bales of shavings for bedding. Each horse is supplied with approximately six bales of shavings per week to keep it clean, dry and in perfect comfort.

This keeps the EEC grooms very busy. A groom's day starts at 5:00am and stops for lunch around 11:00am then they are back out in the barns at 4:00pm and work through until 7:30pm. This is essential to provide a perfect feeding routine, which all horses require to remain fit and healthy. Horses are grazing animals; in the wild they eat most of the day so at EEC we try to replicate that as much as possible.

Aside from looking after the liveries the grooms provide an excellent service for owners. Each owner can rely on their own groom to have their horse ready to ride at any time. Your horse will be presented in top condition, groomed, bandaged or booted and ready for exercise. When you return from your ride your groom will be waiting to take care of all your horse's needs.

### The basic livery package includes:

- Bedding
- Feed & hay
- 24 hour security
- A groom shared between no more than 4/5 horses
- Full use of the centre's facilities
- Discounted lessons on your own horse/pony

Please contact: Lilian Sternvad at [Lilian.Sternvad@emiratesequestriancentre.com](mailto:Lilian.Sternvad@emiratesequestriancentre.com)



## Where are they now?

by Vincent Flores – Jun 2010 ~ Nov 2012

During my time at EEC I had the chance to compete in dressage, show jumping and eventing, helped by several former and current instructors including Denise Vertigen, Lilian Sternvad, Jennifer Forde and Diane Crabtree. Coming to Dubai with a show jumping background, I only really discovered dressage thanks to Lilian. I always remember the day she made me ride tempo changes and passage on EEC's Filou - it was a revelation! I had the chance to compete her Swedish warm blood gelding Malthu up to Medium level, and also EEC's Ocapì to Advanced level.

**"In 2012 I moved to the US and dedicated myself to dressage. I joined a barn owned by a Grand Prix trainer, where I currently own Don Dagnielli, aka 'Dolce'."**

EEC offered me the opportunity to ride ex-UAE show Jumping Team horse Ocapì for two years; we made our way from Preliminary to winning Advanced dressage classes. We participated in the 2011 FEI World Dressage Challenge and qualified at Advanced level for the 2012 edition. Ocapì also successfully competed at show jumping and eventing in the 1m classes and we came third in the 2012 Spinney's Cup.

In 2012 I moved to the US and dedicated myself to dressage. I joined a barn owned by a Grand Prix trainer where I currently own Don Dagnielli, aka "Dolce". Dolce was actually selected in Sweden with the help of Lilian. Dolce is a 12yo Swedish Warm Blood (Donnerhall x Donnerhall), who I have been competing at FEI Prix Saint Georges and FEI Intermediate 1 levels. We earned the 2015 Silver Medal from the US Dressage Federation. In 2016 we will start CDI's Small Tours and hope to make our way up to Grand Prix. Besides Dolce I also own a 5yo FEI prospect called Hermes, he is an Andalusian gelding imported from Spain.

I always enjoy visiting everyone at EEC whenever I have a business trip back to Dubai and of course never miss an opportunity to have a ride on my old best friend Ocapì!

## Contact us

GPS Coordinates: Latitude N24 49.286 | Longitude E55 14.510  
Emirates Equestrian Centre  
P.O. Box 292, Dubai, UAE  
Tel: +971 (0) 50 553 7986 / +971 (0) 50 558 7656  
Fax: +971 (0) 4 323 7265

Email: [info@emiratesequestriancentre.com](mailto:info@emiratesequestriancentre.com)  
Website: [www.emiratesequestriancentre.com](http://www.emiratesequestriancentre.com)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EmiratesEquestrianCentre>