

MEDIENSPIEGEL ENDURANCE seit 10.5.2012– upd: 16.6.2013

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UPDATED:
9 Feb 2013

HORSE & HOUND

PIPPA CUCKSON

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Welfare and dope concerns dominate endurance talks

Arab nations have been heavily criticised for the high incidences of **broken legs and dope violations** in **Middle Eastern endurance yards**.

The comments were made during a round table discussion at the **FEI sports forum** in **Lausanne on 2 May**.

FEI endurance judge **Jean-Louis Leclerc** alleged that multiple horses suffer fractures on single yards per season and he asked what the FEI was doing to improve the situation.



2.10.2012 – Letter from the Belgium Federation to the FEI

<http://www.endurance-belgium.com/>



Ingmar De Vos
Secrétaire Général FEI

K.B.R.S.F.-F.R.B.S.E

Bruxelles, le 2 octobre 2012

Concerne : bien-être des chevaux dans la discipline endurance

Monsieur le Secrétaire Général,

La Fédération Royale Belge des Sports Equestres (FRBSE) est extrêmement inquiète par les rapports qui lui parviennent depuis les courses d'endurance réalisées par des cavaliers du Moyen-Orient dans leur pays ou sur des épreuves européennes.

Durant la saison hivernale 2011-2012 réalisée au Qatar, au Bahrein et aux Emirats Arabes Unis, en compétition sur des CEI, le nombre de chevaux morts d'épuisement ou euthanasiés suite à des fractures spontanées a atteint des proportions inimaginables. Plusieurs écuries de ces mêmes pays ont participé cet été 2012 à diverses compétitions européennes, comme tout récemment, parmi d'autres tristes exemples, à Most en Tchéquie (qui organise un championnat d'Europe – open ! – en 2013): sous leurs selles, des chevaux sont à nouveau décédés ou ont dû se voir euthanasiés suite à des fractures spontanées alors que depuis que l'endurance européenne existe (plus de 30 ans), le nombre de décès y est anecdotique (1 ou 2 cas annuels, toujours accidentel s) et le phénomène de fractures spontanées n'a jamais été constaté.

La FRBSE est scandalisée par le comportement de ces cavaliers et de ces écuries. Au-delà des aspects éthiques et réglementaires que cette maltraitance bafoue, la FRBSE n'ose imaginer les conséquences catastrophiques dont peuvent pâtir l'ensemble des disciplines équestres et les fédérations qui les gèrent si les médias décident de relater de telles infamies auprès du grand public.

Nous sommes convaincus que la FEI prend les mesures nécessaires pour que les coupables soient réellement bannis du sport équestre et pour que de tels agissements stoppent définitivement. Nous l'assurons de notre indéfectible soutien dans ce dossier qui doit trouver une issue positive dans les plus brefs délais. Il en va de l'avenir du sport équestre en général et de l'endurance en particulier mais également de l'honneur et de la crédibilité de toutes les fédérations équestres dignes de ce nom.

Dans l'attente, veuillez, Monsieur le Secrétaire Général, agréer l'expression de nos meilleurs sentiments.

Wendy Laeremans
Directeur FRBSE

12.10.2012 – Letter from the French Federation to the FEI

<http://www.endurance-belgium.com/>



Boulogne, Friday, October 12, 2012

N.REF: W 12 - 355 - DTW/FEI/curutch FEI
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Switzerland

Object: Welfare issue - Endurance discipline

Dear Ingmar,

French Equestrian Federation would like to draw the FEI attention to a welfare issue concerning endurance discipline.

In 2012 French Equestrian Federation has registered 3 horses' deaths during international endurance shows. Concerned Horses dead after having passed vet gate inspections either during the track either after the end of the track. By the way I stay at your entire disposal in the framework of FEI investigation.

These cases are preoccupant for all endurance stakeholders. Here is a risk to tarnish the public perception of endurance discipline. As you know WEG will take in France in two years now. We absolutely need to make our best to avoid any kind of potential welfare scandal during that major event.

FEI does a lot to take into consideration welfare preoccupations for every discipline. French Equestrian Federation supports FEI welfare policy. We are able to contribute to any actions able to improve sport management in a welfare promotion way.

I remind at your entire disposal to discuss the opportunities of common actions, rules improvement or anything else.

Best regards

Pascal DUBOIS
National Sports Director

Copy: Christian PAILLOT – Vice Président de la FFE

<http://www.horseandhound.co.uk/news/drug-testers-will-target-endurance-horses/>

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UPDATED:
9 Feb 2013



**CHARLOTTE
WHITE**

Former H&H
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0

Drug testers will target endurance horses

Endurance is to fall under increased **anti-doping scrutiny** next year.

But the independent integrity unit that oversees the drug testing of elite competition horses says the move reflects the **expansion of the sport** rather than a recent spate of failed drugs tests in endurance.



In the year to November, horse sport's international governing body, the **FEI**, had investigated **15 doping cases**, eight of them involving endurance riders, seven of which were from the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

There are a further **10 cases pending investigation** — nine of which are in endurance.

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26.3.2013 – Letter from the Swiss Federation to the FEI

<http://freendurance.it/lettera-della-federazione-svizzera-alla-fei/>



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March 26, 2013 / SW

Endurance and Animal Welfare and Sport Equity

Dear Secretary General, Dear Ingmar

On behalf of many worried riders, trainers and officials, but also observers in the public, media and animal protection circles, the Swiss Equestrian Federation feels obliged to broach the issue of the negative evolution of the FEI discipline Endurance in the last years.

Without accusing most of the riders and officials, themselves trying to perform an equestrian sport respecting the well being of their horses in a correct and fair manner, the actual situation of FEI Endurance is taking forms that the Swiss Equestrian Federation cannot accept any longer. Reasons for this statement are due to severe conditions not respecting a) animal welfare and b) the equity of competitions.

Hereby we abstain from listing the multitude of witnessed and documented cruelties to horses (partially documented on the web), including shocking veterinarian reports concerning health issues, tremendous fracture frequencies (see also Nagy et al., 2012; Coombs and Fisher, 2012; Mishef et al., 2010) and dangerous treatment protocols, speed-inducing changes in topography of the competitions, as well as cheating actions before and during the Endurance races, in parallel with the non-taking of responsibility and function of certain officials (eg. non-reporting of irregularities and problems) and FEI staff.

In this light, only two facts occurring in the last years are brought exemplary and concretely forward:

Example no 1: Incidences against the animal welfare and FEI code of conduct

At this time we observe a dramatic incidence of positive medication and doping cases, making Endurance the clear "leader" of detected use of forbidden substances. According to the FEI webpage (www.fei.org, Tables 1 - 4), from the 1.1.2010 until the 31.12.2012, 41 Endurance horses were found to be positive, 31.7 % of those with "Banned Substances" like various anabolic substances and 68.3% with so-called "Controlled Medication Substances", a lot of them given as cocktail mixtures. This resulted in 10 "Administrative Procedures" (= provided that: no more than one Controlled Medication Substance (including its metabolites) is detected in the sample; the Person Responsible and/or member of the Support Personnel (where applicable)

and the horse are first-time offenders; the event during which the sample was taken from the horse is not part of the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games or World Equestrian Games) and not less than 31 Tribunal cases (75.6%). In comparison to these numbers in the same period, the FEI discipline Jumping - with 31064 FEI registered horses in 2011 vs. 9656 Endurance horses (EEF 2012) - counts a total of 29 cases (27.5 % due to the use of banned substances), resulting in 17 Administrative Procedures and only 12 Tribunal cases (41.4 % vs. 75.6% in Endurance). Notably 82.9 % of the Endurance cases originate from horses attributed to nations of FEI zone VII (eg. UAE, KSA, BRN, QAT and JOR). On the 28.2.2013, 13 (= 65%) of the total 20 suspended riders are Endurance riders (vs. 3 x Jumping, 2 x Driving, 1x Dressage, 1 x Vaulting) and are coming from UAE (7), KSA (2), BRN (2), JOR (1) and POR (1) (Table 5: Table of Suspensions, last update: 22.2.2013, www.fei.org). Also worth mentioning is that not less than three medal winners (all of them riders from the UAE) at Endurance World and Open European Championships in the last 8 years have been found to be positive (Gold Medal WEC Dubai, UAE, 2005; Bronze Medal Open EEC Compiègne, FRA, 2005; Gold Medal Open EEC Barroca d'Alva, POR, 2007).

This high number of observations is to be interpreted as only the tip of the iceberg and demonstrates a clear disrespect of certain riders, trainers and veterinarians concerning the welfare of horses in sport and the FEI code of conduct.

Example no 2: Incidences against equity in competition

Mostly in relation to sponsorships/ supporting of organizers it has become usual that closed tent houses are constructed, surrounding the vet gates and serving as recovery space, offering all possible comfort for certain riders (Fig 1 - 3. World Championships Euston Park 2012). Officially and at a further distance from the vet gate zone, organizers put tents that are open and unprotected from the weather at disposal for all (other) riders. This situation is in extreme contrast to all sporting rules aiming for equal conditions for all participants at an event. Notably all the winners of the individual medals as well as the team gold medal winners at the World Championships 2012 profited from such luxurious conditions in the vet gate.

We therefore ask the FEI to take immediate and rigorous efficient measures against the

- misuse of Endurance horses by intensifying medication controls, especially in horses from nations known to have a high frequency of positive cases and disrespect of the FEI code of conduct, and strict application of the foreseen FEI penalty system in case of positive findings, equally for all competitors
- non-equity of competition and competitor conditions by generally forbidding private and closed housing on the sporting venue, allowing fair competition, and strict and equal application of competition regulations (eg. regulated access of persons per horse, control of manipulations and actions against isolation of horses by surrounding personnel, equal procedure of horse exams, no officials with conflict of interest, etc.) with severe sanctions in case of non-conformity, equally for all competitors and officials

In addition, a system should be approved for temporarily excluding nations with high doping and non-conformity frequencies from international championships. Alternatively, a transparent separation of Endurance into official FEI Endurance, national Endurance and private Endurance (without qualifying status for FEI competitions) should be considered.

In this context, we inform you, that an international movement shall be created by riders, trainers and officials, who are not willing to accept the described situation of FEI Endurance any longer. This broad movement of actives in the sport will aim for decent actions at the competitions as well as via the social media.


The nature of this letter is not of intent accusing involved persons or even excluding them from the sport. However, it is only when these urgent and vital important measures shall be met, that FEI Endurance will be allowed to take a necessary and positive turn, hence leading to a fair and above all clean sport respecting sport equity and the well-being and integrity of horses and riders alike. In addition, this critical situation described above is of highest potential explosive relevance, putting at risk the image of all other FEI equestrian disciplines, with 66.5% (EEF 2012) of the events 2011 based in Europe. Therefore immediate action by the FEI is indispensable.

With best regards

Swiss Equestrian Federation



Charles F. Trolliet
President



Peter Christen
Member of the Board

Sources:

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- Photos WC Endurance Euston Park 2012

Distribution list: *National Equestrian Federations*
 European Equestrian Federation (EEF)

freendurance.it/lettera-della-federazione-svizzera-alla-fei/

sucht @ Endurance Riding: Ne... pedigree H7 Pferdedecken-Shop GMBK f W support ✂ pixlr I SER X | IERSC - Interna... FEI KL Fignols

Lettera della Federazione Svizzera alla FEI

INVIATO DA ADMIN-FREE SU 29 MAR, 2013 IN 01. NOTIZIE | 2 COMMENTI



Questa lettera è stata inviata a tutti i membri della EEF (European Equestrian Federation) esprimendo la propria preoccupazione per quanto riguarda la situazione dell'Endurance.

La ovvia presa di posizione di qualcuno... è arrivata!!!

Francamente ci si aspettava già da un pò di tempo, l'intervento della Fei, purtroppo mai giunto; e allora, chi meglio della Federazione Nazionale che, nel suo territorio, ospita proprio i palazzi della Fei.

Nota in tutto il mondo per la sua precisione, ma anche per la sua neutralità e per la sua correttezza, la Svizzera ha fatto la prima mossa.

Prima mossa, che francamente altri, ben più blasonati nella Disciplina, avrebbero dovuto fare.

Un'occasione persa? Tutt'altro. Che questo serva da stimolo alle altre Fedrazioni Europee, ad appoggiare compatte questa voglia di ridare all'Endurance la giusta immagine, troppo spesso sporcata in questi ultimi tempi da storie di Doping e inganni.

Grazie Federazione Svizzera, ora aspettiamo l'Italia e le altre.

18.4.2013 – endurance-belgium.com

<http://www.endurance-belgium.com/n-gazette/gazette.htm#orman>

18apr: Orman de Cardone, tested positive - Orman positif

Marre, marre, marre... Cette fois c'est le vainqueur de la President's Cup qui est testé positif aux anabolisants. L'endurance qui est le deuxième sport FEI et bien le premier en termes de dopage. *Fed up!!! Once again a horse tested positive. This time Orman de Cardone who won the President's Cup in February. Endurance is the second FEI sport, yeahhhh... but the first one, by far, regarding doping.*

April 2013 – endurance-belgium.com

<http://www.endurance-belgium.com/>

www.endurance-belgium.com

Endurance Riding: Ne... pedigree H7 Pferdedecken-Shop support pixlr ISER X | IERSC - Interna... KL

La Fédé Suisse lance le pavé dans la mare...

The Swiss Federation sets the cat among the pigeons...

Cette lettre, parfaitement structurée et argumentée émanant de la Fédération Equestre Suisse, devrait provoquer des vagues et ne pourra pas cette fois être jetée aux oubliettes par la FEI. Cette missive adresse les points principaux, ceux qui fâchent, du dysfonctionnement de l'endurance internationale. Ce sont les inégalités de traitement entre cavaliers du Golfe et les autres, le dopage des chevaux surtout dans le chef des Etats du Golfe, la médicalisation à outrance des équidés, la montée en flèche des cas de fractures, le manque d'intégrité des officiels.

Le courrier de trois pages a été envoyée à la FEI mais aussi à toutes les fédérations nationales. Est-ce les grosses fédérations européennes vont supporter la croisade lancée par la Suisse? Il faudrait pour cela que les personnes oeuvrant dans les commissions durances, les chefs d'équipes, les officiels ayant un peu de poids auprès de leur secrétaire général se lancent aussi dans la bagarre. Il faudrait aussi que les medias relayent l'information plutôt que de poster des 'nouvelles' sur ce qui se passe dans le Golfe, sachant très bien comment cela s'y passe. Espérons donc que le "SwissGate" est lancé et bien lancé.

This letter from the Swiss Federation should trigger waves among the equestrian authorities. It is perfectly structured, coherent and argued. One could hardly imagine how the FEI will manage to throw it in the bin. The Swiss Federation letter addresses all major issues of the dysfunctioning of international endurance riding. The inequity of treatment between riders at major international events involving riders from the Gulf countries, the doping of horses trained by the stables of the Gulf countries, the excessive medicalization of horses during conditioning and competitions, the drastic increase of stress fractures, the lack of probity and integrity of some officials.

The text has been sent to the FEI, but also to all National Federations. Will the prominent and influential federations support the crusade initiated by the Swiss? This would require a proactive role from all people involved in endurance and working in national committees, chef d'équipe and other officials having some influence among their national authorities. It would be also great time that the medias start to relay the information in place of posting 'great news' from races in the Gulf while they are perfectly aware of how things th. Let's hope that the "SwissGate" is launched and is on its own way...

Copie des lettres ci-dessous - Letters are here :

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Sport

Godolphin-Trainer acht Jahre gesperrt

Godolphin, das Pferderennsport-Imperium von Scheich Mohammed, wird von einem Dopingskandal überschattet. Bei neun von Mahmood Al Zarooni trainierten Galopprennen sind anabole Steroide nachgewiesen worden.

Der Trainer Mahmood Al Zarooni bei seiner Ankunft vor der British Horse Racing Authority. (Bild: Reuters)

Peter Jegen

Die Massnahmen sind drastisch, der Imageschaden ist gross. Scheich Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, der Regent von Dubai und Vizepräsident der Vereinigten Arabischen Emirate, hat mit sofortiger Wirkung einen Teil seines Pferderennsport-Imperiums Godolphin geschlossen. Bis auf weiteres startet kein Galopper aus den Moulton-Paddocks-Stallungen im englischen Rennsportzentrum Newmarket mehr, und alle rund 150 Pferde müssen sich einer Dopingprobe unterziehen. Dies, weil in einer von der British Horseracing Authority (BHA) durchgeführten Trainingskontrolle bei neun Vollblütern anabole Steroide nachgewiesen wurden.

Al Zarooni acht Jahre gesperrt

Trainiert werden die Pferde vom 37-jährigen Araber Mahmood Al Zarooni, der am Donnerstag vor dem Disziplinarausschuss der BHA Stellung nehmen musste. Er hat das Doping nicht geleugnet und dafür eine saftige Strafe kassiert: eine Sperre von acht Jahren. Die betroffenen Pferde sind zudem für sechs Monate vom Rennsport ausgeschlossen. Bereits vor den Verhandlungen hatte Al Zarooni die Verantwortung für den Dopingskandal übernommen.

Die englische «Racing Post», ein Fachblatt, dessen Markenrechte Scheich Mohammed gehören, schrieb von einem Statement von Al Zarooni, in dem er sagte, dass er einen katastrophalen Fehler begangen habe. Weil die Pferde zum Zeitpunkt der Behandlung nicht im Renneinsatz gestanden hätten, sei ihm nicht bewusst gewesen, dass er gegen Doping-Bestimmungen verstosse, wurde der Trainer zitiert.

Scheich Mohammed seinerseits liess über die Website von Godolphin seinem Entsetzen und seiner Verärgerung freien Lauf. Mit Al Zarooni hat er gebrochen, weil der angerichtete Imageschaden irreparabel ist. Mit weit über 5000 Vollblütern ist Godolphin nicht nur der grösste Player im internationalen Pferderennsport. In ihrem Emirat veranstalten die Araber mit dem Dubai World Cup auch das höchstdotierte Pferderennen der Welt und vermarkten dieses touristisch. Zudem ist Scheich Mohammed mit der jordanischen Prinzessin Haya bint al-Hussein verheiratet, die als Präsidentin der Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) eine Vorkämpferin für sauberen Pferdesport ist.

Mehr Schein als Sein?

Freilich stellt sich nun abermals die Frage, wie sehr Schein und Sein auseinanderliegen. 2009 war Scheich Mohammed bereits wegen Dopings bei seinen Endurance-Pferden (Distanzreiten) in die Schlagzeilen geraten. Aus früheren Jahren ist vom Dubai World Cup ein «Gentlemen Agreement» bekannt. Dieses besagte, dass Pferde bis am Mittwoch behandelt werden durften, von Donnerstag bis zum Rennen am Samstag war jegliche Medikation aber tabu. «Bei solchen Gegebenheiten bliebe ich zu Hause in jeder Dopingkontrolle hängen», sagte ein deutscher Trainer damals.

Bevor die Trainingskontrolle am 9. April in Newmarket bei 45 Pferden durchgeführt wurde, waren innerhalb von 12 Monaten zwei von Al Zarooni betreute Pferde in einer Dopingkontrolle hängengeblieben. Und der Coach räumte ein, dass auch vier nicht kontrollierte Tiere die verbotenen Substanzen erhalten hätten. Also die anabolen Steroide Ethylestrenol und Stanozolol, die dafür verwendet wurden, um in den Wintermonaten die Muskelbildung der Pferde zu beschleunigen. Wären die Tiere im Juni erstmals ein Rennen gelaufen, hätten die Substanzen kaum mehr nachgewiesen werden können.

Viele offene Fragen

Nach den Regeln im Pferderennsport ist der Trainer die im Umgang mit den Pferden verantwortliche Person. Dass Al Zarooni die Schuld auf sich nimmt, ist damit nur logisch. Allerdings ist nicht anzunehmen, dass er als Einziger vom Doping wusste. Angesichts der neun positiven Fälle stellt sich die Frage, ob die Verwendung von anabolen Steroiden während längerer Rennpausen (Wintermonate) systematisch ist. Und wenn ja, einzig bei Godolphin oder gar im ganzen Pferderennsport? Auch muss noch geklärt werden, wie die verbotenen Mittel nach England kamen und wer dafür bezahlte.

Die Sperre von acht Jahren für Mahmmod Al Zarooni und den sechsmonatigen Ausschluss der betroffenen Pferde vom Rennbetrieb erachtete am Donnerstagabend Paul Bittar, der CEO der britischen Rennbehörde, als deutliches Zeichen. «Damit versichern wird der Öffentlichkeit und den im Sport involvierten Personen, dass leistungssteigernde Substanzen im britischen Pferderennsport keinen Platz haben.» Wenn sich Bittar da nur nicht zu früh freut. Zum Wiedererlangen der Glaubwürdigkeit haben Mahmood Al Zarooni und Godolphin jedenfalls noch viele Fragen zu beantworten.

25.4.2013 – Jour de Galop

Affaire Godolphin - Al Zarooni

LE CHEIKH MOHAMMED EXPRIME SA COLÈRE

Mercredi, en fin d'après-midi, suite aux chevaux testés positifs à des stéroïdes anabolisants dans l'écurie de Mahmood Al Zarooni, le Cheikh Mohammed Al Maktoum s'est exprimé au travers d'un communiqué de presse, dont voici la traduction :

« J'ai été horrifié et furieux d'apprendre que l'une des nos écuries à Newmarket avait violé les standards d'éthique de Godolphin et les règles des courses anglaises. Je me suis impliqué dans les courses anglaises depuis trente ans et j'ai un profond respect pour leurs traditions et règles. J'ai construit mon pays selon les mêmes principes. Il ne peut y avoir aucune excuse pour une violation délibérée comme celle-ci. Godolphin coopère entièrement avec la British Horseracing Authority pour revenir aux fondements de cette affaire et prendre toutes les sanctions disciplinaires adéquates. J'ai demandé aux managers de Godolphin de mettre en place un état des lieux immédiat de nos procédures internes et contrôles pour prévenir toute occurrence de ce genre d'activités dans n'importe laquelle de mes écuries. Nous avons décidé de confiner les écuries de Moulton Paddocks sur le champ et j'ai demandé un examen sanguin sur chacun de mes chevaux. Je peux assurer le public qu'aucun de mes chevaux de cet établissement ne courra tant que je n'aurais pas été assuré par mon équipe que l'écurie dans sa globalité est propre. J'ai travaillé dur pour que Godolphin mérite sa réputation d'intégrité et de sportivité, et j'ai redit à chaque employé de Godolphin que je ne tolérerai pas ce type de comportement. »

MAHMOOD AL ZAROONI ENTENDU JEUDI APRÈS-MIDI PAR LA B.H.A.

La B.H.A. (British Horseracing Authority) a révélé mercredi que Mahmood Al Zarooni serait entendu par une commission disciplinaire ce jeudi, à 14 h 30 (heure anglaise), dans ses bureaux de Londres. Nous avons aussi appris que l'entraîneur avait admis avoir administré des substances prohibées à quatre autres chevaux, en plus des onze qui ont été contrôlés positifs. Il s'agit de **Comitas**, **Sashiko** et **Vacationer** (traités à l'éthylestranol) et **Tearless** (traitée au stanozolol). Ces chevaux n'ont pas été prélevés par la B.H.A. Ils ne seront donc pas ajoutés à la liste pour laquelle Mahmood Al Zarooni répondra avoir enfreint les règles 50 et 55 du code anglais, concernant l'usage de substances prohibées. En revanche, ils seront pris en compte dans l'accusation de conduite préjudiciable aux courses. Le troisième chef d'accusation auquel



Le Cheikh Mohammed



Mahmood Al Zarooni

Mahmood Al Zarooni devra répondre est celui concernant la détention de substances prohibées. La sanction encourue peut aller jusqu'à dix années de suspension, car Mahmood Al Zarooni est récidiviste. Deux de ses pensionnaires avaient été contrôlés positifs à un antidouleur l'an dernier. Il peut aussi recevoir une sanction supplémentaire pour avoir nui à l'image des courses. Rappelons que Mahmood Al Zarooni est installé depuis mars 2010 à côté de Newmarket (Moulton Paddocks), où il veille sur environ cent cinquante chevaux appartenant au Cheikh Mohammed Al Maktoum. →



LE CONTRÔLE ANTIDOPAGE EN GRANDE-BRETAGNE

	2012	2011	2010
Partants	90.174	94.786	92.025
Chevaux contrôlés	7.182	7.619	7.952
Cas positifs	14	13	25
(% de partants)	(0,19 %)	(0,17 %)	(0,31 %)

Seulement deux cas de contrôles positifs à des stéroïdes anabolisants ont été enregistrés ces dernières années en Grande-Bretagne. Cela concernait Howard Johnson, en 2008 et 2009, et Kevin Tork, dont un cheval avait couru sous stanozolol, mais le traitement avait eu lieu alors qu'il n'était pas sous son entraînement.

À LA UNE DU FINANCIAL TIMES

L'affaire Godolphin a eu un écho sans pareil en Grande-Bretagne. Elle est considérée comme le plus gros scandale de dopage ayant jamais touché les courses anglaises. Mercredi, le *Financial Times* a même publié en première page une photo de Certify, sous la selle de Mickaël Barzalona, avec ce titre : « L'incertitude des courses. Le sport tremble après que l'entraîneur a admis avoir dopé des chevaux appartenant à l'émir de Dubaï. » Le journal ne s'est pas privé non plus de souligner que ce n'est pas la première histoire de dopage qui touche les dirigeants de Dubaï. Il a été rappelé qu'en 2009, la Fédération équestre internationale, présidée par l'épouse du Cheikh Mohammed Al Maktoum, la princesse Haya de Jordanie, avait suspendu six mois le Cheikh Mohammed pour un contrôle positif sur l'un de ses chevaux d'endurance. L'entraîneur desdits chevaux, Abdullah bin Huzaim, avait alors admis avoir administré des substances prohibées sans en avoir averti son patron. Cette année, le fils du Cheikh Mohammed, Cheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, a lui aussi écopé d'une suspension de la FEI. L'un de ses chevaux d'endurance avait été contrôlé positif au stanozolol. Le Prince l'avait expliqué par une compétition intense entre les grooms de l'écurie.



Endurance Riding: News

Press, rides, news around the world...

Sunday, April 28, 2013

Swiss Protest "Negative Evolution of the FEI discipline Endurance"

4/26/2013

In a March 26, 2013, letter from the Swiss Federation, sent to the FEI and distributed to the National Equestrian Federations and European Equestrian Federation, the "negative evolution of the FEI discipline Endurance in the last few years" and the well being of the equestrian sport of endurance and its horses has been addressed.

The letter was written "on behalf of many worried riders, trainers and officials, but also observers in the public, media and animal protection circles." The letter stated, the "actual situation of FEI Endurance is taking forms that the Swiss Equestrian Federation cannot accept any longer."

The letter addresses the "multitude of witnessed and documented cruelties to horses... tremendous fracture frequencies... dangerous treatment protocols... as well as cheating actions before and during the Endurance races... in parallel with the non-taking of responsibility and function of certain officials..."

A "dramatic incidence of positive medication and doping cases" has been observed, along with inequity in competition.

The Swiss have petitioned the FEI to take immediate and efficient measures against the doping of endurance horses and the documented non-equity of competition.







The Swiss letter precedes letters of concern from the French Equestrian Federation, and the Belgian Equestrian Federation to the FEI in October of 2012.

The Belgian letter dated October 2, 2012, addressed (google translate) "the number of dead from exhaustion or horses euthanized due to spontaneous fractures has reached unimaginable proportions..." and requests the FEI take the (google translate) "necessary measures to ensure that perpetrators are actually banned from equestrian sport and that such actions quit permanently."

The French letter, dated October 12, 2012, addressed "a welfare issue concerning endurance discipline," pointing to 3 horse deaths during international endurance competition: "Concerned Horses dead after having passed vet gate inspections either during the track either after the end of the track... These cases are preoccupant for all endurance stakeholders. Here is a risk to tarnish the public perception of endurance discipline..."

No public comment so far from the FEI.

Contributors

-  Maryanne Stroud Gabbani
-  DarcyLynne
-  Steph Teeter
-  Leonard
-  Endurance.Net
-  Merri

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Sport

Den Worten müssen Taten folgen

In den Verhaltensregeln der Fédération Equestre Internationale steht das Wohl des Pferdes über allem. Doch die Präsidentin treibt vor allem die Kommerzialisierung und Globalisierung voran, und in ihrem eigenen Umfeld gibt es abermals einen Dopingfall.

Die Präsidentin der FEI, Haya bint al-Hussein. (Bild: NZZ / Bottini)

Peter Jegen

Aus der einst verstaubten Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) hat Haya bint al-Hussein einen modernen Sportverband gemacht. Die jordanische Prinzessin, die Ende Woche 39-jährig wird, trieb seit ihrer Wahl zur Präsidentin im Jahre 2006 eine unvergleichliche Kommerzialisierung und Globalisierung voran. Ganz im Gegensatz zu ihren ebenso blaublütigen Vorgängerinnen (Infanta Doña Pilar de Borbón; Anne, The Princess Royal), die die Traditionen der 1921 gegründeten FEI umsorgten und bewahrten.

Neue und aufstrebende Märkte

Zur Politik der Prinzessin gehört, arabische, asiatische oder südamerikanische Länder verstärkt einzubinden. Sie will, dass sich die Equestrik nicht mehr nur auf die in Sport und Zucht erfolgreichen Länder beschränkt. Noch liegen diese in Europa und Nordamerika – am Wochenende hat das der in Göteborg ausgetragene Weltcup-Final in den Disziplinen Springreiten und Dressur bestätigt. Künftig aber soll der Pferdesport ebenso in neuen und aufstrebenden Märkten blühen, in wirtschaftlich verheissungsvolleren Gebieten als der Alten Welt. So wird heuer die Serie der Nationenpreise, analog dem Weltcup, erstmals in einem Final von sechs globalen Regionen entschieden.

Es gibt viele Stakeholders, die das begrüßen. Und die Sponsoren klatschen Beifall. Zu Jahresbeginn zog die FEI ihren ersten Top-Partner (Longines) an Land. Er soll in den nächsten zehn Jahren eine neunstellige Euro-Summe zahlen. Zudem schiesst ein von der saudiarabischen Königsfamilie kontrollierter Equestrian Fund jährlich vier Millionen Euro ein, um den neuen Nationenpreis-Final zu alimentieren. Kommerzialisierung und Globalisierung gehören heutzutage ganz offensichtlich zu einem modernen Sportverband – das Internationale Olympische Komitee (IOK) übernimmt diesbezüglich ja die Vorreiterrolle.

Bloss ein nettes Lächeln

Mit der merkantilen und geografischen Expansion geht freilich auch eine wachsende Meinungsvielfalt einher. Ideen und Ansichten werden eingebracht, die auf unterschiedlichem Nährboden spriessen und entsprechend divergieren. So forderte Anfang Monat der saudiarabische Vertreter am FEI-Sports-Forum ganz selbstverständlich zusätzliche Olympia-

Quotenplätze für sein Land. Weil die Saudi deutlich mehr Geld in den Sport investieren würden als andere. Der Schweizer Christophe Dubi, der Sportdirektor des IOK, hatte dafür bloss ein nettes Lächeln übrig.

Was wie eine amüsante Randnotiz bezüglich kultureller Unterschiede anmutet, wird im ethischen Umgang mit dem Pferd zum grundlegenden Problem. Das zeigt das Beispiel von Mahmood Al Zarooni. Der Rennpferdetrainer wurde letzte Woche in England des Dopings mit anabolen Steroiden überführt. Der Araber betreut exklusiv die Galopper von Scheich Mohammed, dem Regenten von Dubai und Gatten der FEI-Präsidentin. Al Zarooni gab zu Protokoll, nicht gewusst zu haben, dass in England Stanozolol zur Förderung des Muskelaufbaus verboten ist. In Dubai sei das im Training gebräuchlich und legal – wie notabene im australischen Pferderennsport auch.

Empörende Aussage

Selbst im Wissen darum, dass der Turf unabhängig von der FEI organisiert und geregelt ist, eine empörende Aussage. Denn auch Al Zarooni dürfte schon vom Fall Ben Johnson an den Olympischen Spielen 1988 gehört haben. Oder er sollte sich an 2009 erinnern, als er in Dubai im Distanzreiten tätig war. Damals wurde dort ein von Scheich Mohammed gerittenes Pferd in einem Wettkampf positiv getestet. Der Scheich erhielt eine sechsmonatige Sperre aufgebremst. Weil die sogenannte Endurance eine Disziplin der FEI ist, weil in der Probe unter anderem auch 16-b Hydroxy-Stanozolol nachgewiesen wurde.

Sind Kommerzialisierung und Globalisierung wichtiger als der Schutz der Tiere? Die FEI verneint und verweist auf ihre Verhaltensregeln, in denen über allem das Wohl des Pferdes steht. Die offizielle Lesart freilich ist wenig glaubhaft, wenn selbst im Umfeld der royalen Präsidentin offenkundig eine ganz andere Gesinnung herrscht. Ob das zu einem arabischen Frühling im Pferdesport führt? Zumindest müsste es zum Wohl des Tieres endlich ein globales Verbot von Doping auch abseits der FEI-Disziplinen geben.

* Doping: Godolphin-Trainer acht Jahre gesperrt

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Im Schaufenster

Im globalisierten Business Pferdesport braucht das Tierwohl mehr Beachtung

Peter Jegen (jeg)

Peter Jegen · Aus der einst verstaubten Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) hat Haya bint al-Hussein einen modernen Sportverband gemacht. Die jordanische Prinzessin, die Ende Woche 39-jährig wird, trieb seit ihrer Wahl zur Präsidentin im Jahre 2006 eine unvergleichliche Kommerzialisierung und Globalisierung voran. Ganz im Gegensatz zu ihren ebenso blaublütigen Vorgängerinnen (Infanta Doña Pilar de Borbón; Anne, The Princess Royal), die die Traditionen der 1921 gegründeten FEI umsorgten und bewahrten.

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COVER STORY **Steroids scandal**

Guilty trainer's endurance links put spotlight on Arab doping record

As the steroids found in Sheikh Mohammed's racehorses last week shocked the world, their trainer's past links with endurance have come into focus. And the Swiss are calling on the FEI to tackle the 'unacceptable' doping record of Arab endurance nations. **Pippa Cuckson** reports

CONCERNS about equine doping and severe injuries in the Middle East are already the worst-kept secrets in FEI endurance. But this niche discipline seems set for wider scrutiny following the Godolphin steroids scandal that rocked the racing world last week.

Mahmood al Zarooni, who trained for Sheikh Mohammed's elite Godolphin operation at Moulton Paddocks, Newmarket, was banned for a record eight years after 11 racehorses tested positive to anabolic steroids, following a spot-check by the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) last month. Al Zarooni also admitted giving steroids to four other horses.

Sheikh Mohammed is the ruler of Dubai, one of the seven principalities of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He personally underpins the global racing economy with worldwide bloodstock investments worth billions and

owns an estimated 5,000 racehorses. His junior wife, Princess Haya of Jordan, is president of the FEI, the body that governs global horse sport, and has actively campaigned for clean sport (see box, right).

Sheikh Mohammed said he was "shocked and appalled" by al Zarooni's actions. He ordered root and branch investigations into stable management practices, as well as co-operating fully with the BHA.

The Swiss demand change

BUT al Zarooni has previously worked as assistant to Mubarak Khalifa Bin Shafya — who came before the FEI tribunal in 2008 and 2011 for endurance doping matters. He has trained both endurance and racehorses at Sheikh Mohammed's Al Asaafa stables in Dubai.

This, combined with renewed coverage of the six-month suspension served by Sheikh

Mohammed himself in 2009 (for a horse testing positive for banned substances), has put Middle Eastern endurance under a media microscope. This comes in the week the FEI is due to respond to demands for change from the Swiss Equestrian Federation (SEF).

In a letter, seen by *H&H*, SEF president Charles Trollet warned that the "negative evolution" of endurance in the Middle East is now so unacceptable that concerned endurance riders and officials elsewhere in the world believe a breakaway movement should be considered.

In his letter, Mr Trollet highlights a "dramatic incidence" of doping and "incidences of inequity" [unequal treatment] in competition — the latter involving completely enclosed "recovery areas for certain riders" around vetgates.

These included the World Championships at

Pictures by Trevor Jones and David Miller



Sheikh Mohammed is a regular endurance competitor

Sheikh Mohammed watching the great Dubai Millennium in training. He has extensive endurance interests (above) as well as racing.

Euston Park, Norfolk, last year, where Sheikh

Can Princess Haya still run horse sport?

THE steroids scandal is a further embarrassment to Sheikh Mohammed's junior wife, Princess Haya.

In her role as head of horse sport's governing body, the Jordan-born princess — a former Olympic showjumper — is arbiter of the FEI's "clean sport" programme.

FEI secretary general Ingmar de Vos was quick to come to her defence.

"Princess Haya's stance on these matters is absolutely clear," he told *H&H*. "She is totally against the use of prohibited substances in any form of horse sport."

"During her presidency, the FEI has invested a huge amount of time and money into the clean sport campaign, resulting in clean FEI World Equestrian Games across all disciplines in 2010 and clean Olympic and Paralympic Games in London last year," he added.



Princess Haya is the younger of Sheikh Mohammed's two wives

Special treatment?

AS the Godolphin scandal unfolded last week, the disgraced trainer Mahmood al Zarooni was exposed, denounced and exiled with extraordinary haste.

The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) hearing and subsequent eight-year ban came just three days after the announcement last week (22 April) that anabolic steroids had been found in 11 horses trained by al Zarooni.

One leading Newmarket trainer said the quick turnaround "smacked of special treatment" — and no wonder.

Sheikh Mohammed underpins British racing to an enormous extent, owning as much as a quarter of the 2,000 horses trained in

quarter of the 2,000 horses trained in Newmarket alone.

No one in Newmarket has forgotten how the Aga Khan took his horses away in 2000, following failed dope tests.

So has the BHA tried to wrap up this matter in a way that encourages the Sheikh to stay?

"As regulator, we treat everyone equally," said Paul Bittar of the BHA.

He added: "We'll be doing everything we can to encourage him [Sheikh Mohammed] to stay involved."

Receiving a trophy from The Queen at Royal Ascot



Euston Park, Norfolk, last year, where Sheikh Mohammed won the individual title and the UAE team gold.

Regarding doping, the SEF produced graphs using FEI tribunal data showing how, from January 2010, 41 endurance horses worldwide tested positive for various banned and controlled substances.

More than 80% of the disciplinary cases involved FEI Group VII (UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Jordan and Qatar) and seven of the 13 people consequently suspended from Group VII were from the UAE.

Horses ridden by three medallists, all from the UAE, at FEI championships in the past eight years also tested positive.

Riding clubs

Woman killed at annual Jersey show

A woman has been killed while taking part in a riding club event on Jersey.

Sally Amy, who was 56, was competing in Jersey Riding Club's annual show at Six Roads, St Lawrence, on Saturday afternoon (27 April), when her horse slipped and fell jumping a fence.

Ms Amy suffered fatal crush injuries.

British Riding Clubs said it was "saddened" to learn of her death.

Lynn Petersen, chief executive of the British Horse Society, said it was a "heartbreaking end to what should have been an enjoyable day of competition".

"Our thoughts are with Sally's family and friends," she added.

British Horse Society

Changes to senior BHS personnel

THE British Horse Society (BHS) is undergoing further restructuring, with the departure of three directors.

Margaret Linington-Payne (director of standards), Gill Evans (finance) and Alison Field (HR) have all taken redundancy.

"I wanted to bring in more experience and more skills," said chief executive Lynn Petersen. "We need to grow and develop."

These departures follow that of BHS chairman Phil Wadey last May and former chief executive Graham Cory, who left suddenly in the autumn (news, 4 October).

Four new roles are being advertised — director of education, director of equine policy, director of regional services and head of equestrian services.

Point-to-point

First win between the flags for Tina

TINA COOK broke her point-to-point training duck on Saturday (27 April) when Peplum won at the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray.

Peplum won at the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray.

Peplum, owned by Heart of the South syndicate group, won the ladies' open under Hannah Grissell. The pair beat the 4-7 favourite Mount Sandel.

"A win has been a while coming, so it's nice to get first one on the board," Olympic team silver medallist Tina told *H&H*.

"I thoroughly enjoyed being on the ground watching someone who knows what they are doing on my horse."

"Hannah did a very professional job," she added.

Tina started training last year at her West Sussex base (news, 11 October). She's long been working with her brother, National Hunt trainer Nick Gifford, riding out and helping with the youngsters.

➤ For more, see pointing p108 and Tina's eventing column p35

Comment

HORSE HOUND

Rescuing our integrity



Lucy Higginson
Editor, Horse & Hound

WHAT a week! Nicky Henderson was crowned champion jumps trainer and AP McCoy champion jockey for the 18th time. Andrew Nicholson laid the ground for an unprecedented double assault on the Rolex Grand Slam by winning Kentucky.

So how sad that all this should be eclipsed by 11 Godolphin horses testing positive for anabolic steroids. Brough Scott offers a brilliant analysis of what this means to racing — and the racing public (see p102).

Arab-owned endurance horses have for some time dominated other doping tables — those held by the FEI, which runs global horse sport — and Sheikh Mohammed's now disgraced racehorse trainer Mahmood al Zarooni's links with endurance are being exposed.

In March, the Swiss federation wrote to the FEI demanding it tackle endurance's

“It is an uncomfortable time for all of us who love horse sport”

IN MARCH, THE SWISS FEDERATION WROTE TO THE FEI DEMANDING IT TACKLE ENDURANCE'S

“It is an uncomfortable time for all of us who love horse sport”

doping problem and “tremendous fracture frequencies”. The Swiss attack the “clear disrespect of certain riders, trainers and veterinarians concerning the welfare of horses in sport”.

It is not just an uncomfortable time for Princess Haya — Sheikh Mohammed's wife and president of the FEI — but for all of us who love horse sport. So many top equestrian contests now enjoy Arab-backed sponsorship.

Yet our sports demand integrity more than any other, because they involve the well-being of the creatures in our care.

Can the FEI bring about a culture change in endurance? We wait to see.

'Shocking' vet reports and 'cheating'

MR TROLLET continued: “We abstain from listing the multitude of witnessed and documented cruelties to horses, including shocking veterinarian reports concerning health issues, tremendous fracture frequencies and dangerous treatment protocols... as well as cheating actions before and during the endurance races, in parallel with the non-taking of responsibility of certain officials and FEI staff.”

Ingmar de Vos, secretary general of the FEI, told *H&H* that a comprehensive response was being sent this week and the Swiss had “expressed their satisfaction with the FEI's approach”.

Asked to confirm if the FEI had sought a meeting earlier this winter to warn the UAE that its FEI endurance rides faced disaffiliation, Mr de Vos said: “Given the growth of endurance in the UAE, meetings between the FEI and the UAE Equestrian Federation are taking place on a regular basis both in [FEI headquarters at] Lausanne and the UAE.”

In April 2012, distinguished vets debated increased doping and fractures in endurance at the FEI open forum in Lausanne. UAE delegate Dr Hallvard Sommereth, a vet, identified the UAE as one of the countries being referred to. He said that the FEI practice of making riders the “person responsible” for doping violations meant that, in the Middle East, the “wrong person” was often punished; there, endurance hinges on the trainer, with horses competed by jobbing jockeys who usually had no prior knowledge of their mounts.

He said the UAE federation undertakes more national testing than most, reporting offenders to the FEI, which then posts offences online for the duration of the winter season — making the incidence look worse than it is.

➤ **Additional reporting by Flora Watkins**
➤ **See Brough Scott's column, p102**

Steroids — what's legit and what isn't?

ANABOLIC steroids, such as ethylestranol and stanozolol used in the Godolphin case, are a group of drugs related to testosterone.

They differ from corticosteroids, which are commonly used in veterinary treatment and are also referred to as “steroids”.

Anabolic steroids — banned in racehorses in this country — are used for enhancing performance by building muscle mass, but they can also have therapeutic uses.

“They are banned here not because they cause health problems, but rather that it's cheating,” said David Mountford of the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA).

“The use of performance-enhancing drugs means it's not a level playing field.”

Anabolic steroids may be administered during racehorse training in the USA, Australia and Dubai — but must have cleared the horse's system before it races.

“Doping control in European racing is extremely high — higher than it is for human athletes,” said Mr Mountford.

Stanozolol injections into joints are also currently being investigated for the treatment of inflammatory and degenerative joint disease.

As *H&H* went to press, it emerged that a small number of Newmarket horses with injured joints, trained by Gerard Butler, appear to have been treated by vets using low doses of stanozolol injected into the joints. There do not appear to be any allegations that the drug was intended to enhance performance in this case and it is believed that Mr Butler did not consider that this treatment was in breach of the Rules.

How horse sport relies on Arab money

IT IS NOT JUST Sheikh Mohammed's British racing operation that shores up the industry in this country.

➤ Channel 4 Racing has been sponsored by Sheikh Mohammed in 1986, Dubai World Cup, was the title

How horse sport relies on Arab money

IT IS NOT JUST Sheikh Mohammed's British racing operation that shores up the industry in this country.

➤ Channel 4 Racing has been sponsored by Dubai since 2008.
➤ QIPCO — a Qatari company — launched the lucrative British Champions series in 2011.
➤ The *Racing Post* was founded



by Sheikh Mohammed in 1986, before being sold in the 1990s. And it is not only racing that has come to rely on Arab sponsorship and patronage. Largely through FEI president Princess Haya's influence (see previous page), Arab companies support a raft of series and competitions.

➤ Fursiyya FEI Nations Cup: Fursiyya, the investment arm of the Saudi Equestrian Fund, stepped into the breach to sponsor the showjumping Nations Cup earlier this year. Previously Meydan, home of the

Dubai World Cup, was the title sponsor.

➤ Reem Acra (left): the Lebanese-born bridal wear designer sponsors the FEI World Cup dressage competition.

➤ Longines, the Swiss-Lebanese luxury watchmaker, ousted Rolex as long-term sponsor of the FEI World Cup showjumping and riders rankings in December (news, 4 January) in a record nine-figure deal.

➤ Princess Haya funded the FEI's new offices in Lausanne, Switzerland.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/article-2319951/Sheik-Mohammed-Mahmood-Al-Zarooni-doping-scandal-Racing-crisis--MARTIN-SAMUEL.html>

Racing's fawning rulers invited Sheik's walk of shame

By MARTIN SAMUEL - SPORT

PUBLISHED: 23:06 GMT, 5 May 2013 | UPDATED: 23:06 GMT, 5 May 2013

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It was all there in the turn of the heel. You don't question Sheik Mohammed about doping. You don't question Sheik Mohammed at all, really. And there's the problem. Clare Balding politely raised the systematic drug programme taking place at the stables of his disgraced trainer Mahmood Al Zarooni, and the Sheik walked.

He only agreed to appear before camera at all because his horse, Dawn Approach, had just won the 2,000 Guineas. Getting a question he didn't like, he loftily ended the interview. For a man who could have been held responsible for the actions of his employee, he seems rather confident.

For that, can we perhaps blame the fawning British horse racing establishment? An establishment so terrified that the Sheik will withdraw his vast wealth from the sport in this country that it wrapped up an inquest into a massive steroid scandal in less time than it takes a local council to rule on a challenged parking ticket.



Rare appearance: Sheikh Mohammed (centre) talked on camera after horse Dawn Approach ran a winning race



Interview over: The Sheikh walked away from Clare Balding (right) after she asked a question he didn't like



On Saturday, nobody seemed to consider Dawn Approach's victory as a negative for racing. If the Sheikh was happy, the money rolls in — and now the Sheikh has the favourite for the Derby, he should be very happy indeed.

Yet what message will it send if Godolphin mops up the major prizes this summer? The British Horseracing Authority quickly accepted that Al Zarooni acted alone, and Sheikh Mohammed was innocent of all knowledge, when some would have expected a more rigorous line of inquiry that went beyond Al Zarooni's confession.



Onto a winner: Dawn Approach won the Qipco 2000 Guineas at Newmarket



Disgraced: Mahmood al-Zarooni leaves after a disciplinary hearing at the British Horseracing Authority

Sheik Mohammed clearly thinks he is above that, and above answering impertinent questions now the matter has been swiftly and conveniently brought to a close.

Lance Armstrong thought the same. He believed his status in the sport of cycling put him above inquisition. Yet for cycling to be considered clean its biggest name had to fall, no matter the short-term cost. And that may be true of racing as well.

Sheik Mohammed is no Armstrong. There is no evidence to suggest he knew about Al Zarooni's actions. But that does not mean there is no case to answer, or questions needing to be asked.

From here, his stand on drugs in sport is vitally important. It would be of huge benefit if he could use the Derby platform to announce that Dubai will now operate steroid free — drugs are currently allowed, providing they are out of the horse's system at the time of the race — and push for an international standard on drug use to bring countries like Australia and the United States into line with the rest of the world.

These are not minor issues. This is a sport in crisis. And it will remain that way while it allows the main man to exercise the power his position brings, without any of the responsibility.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/horseracing/10042116/Endurance-horses-trained-at-Sheikh-Mohammeds-Dubai-stables-involved-in-doping-scandal.html?fb>

The Telegraph

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Endurance horses trained at Sheikh Mohammed's Dubai stables involved in doping scandal

More than 20 endurance horses trained in Dubai at stables owned variously by Sheikh Mohammed and other senior members of the Maktoum family have been involved in doping cases before the International Equestrian Federation's (FEI) disciplinary tribunal since 2005.



No comment: Sheikh Mohammed refused to answer questions relating to doping when asked on television last weekend. Photo: GETTY IMAGES



By Pippa Cuckson

11:59PM BST 07 May 2013

14 Comments

According to publicly available archives, 16 of the horses tested positive in competition to natural or manufactured steroids. Four since 2009 have involved stanozolol, the banned substance found in Sheikh Mohammed's 11 Godolphin racehorses that led to trainer Mahmood Al Zarooni's eight-year ban by the British Horseracing Authority.

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Sheikh Mohammed refused to answer questions relating to doping from television presenter Clare Balding at Newmarket last Saturday, but he had previously pledged a root-and-branch investigation into stable practices at Godolphin's Newmarket set-up. The FEI tribunal has previously noted that he made a similar undertaking regarding his endurance operations in Dubai when he himself was suspended for six months in 2009, though any evidence of changes brought in as a result was not shown to them.

Endurance is the FEI's fastest growing participant sport. It is run by a separate jurisdiction to thoroughbred horse racing and tends to embrace a different horse community, but there has been crossover in personnel within the Maktoums' wider equine interests.

In 2006, while managing the Maktoums' Al Aasfa stables, Ismail Mohammed was banned for a year over the doping of two horses, one of which was lent to British youth team member Alice Beet. While acknowledged as blameless, Beet had to accept a three-month ban. Mohammed is now training racehorses for other owners in Newmarket.

Al Zarooni once worked as assistant to Mubarak bin Shafya, who has been sanctioned twice for doping offences. In 2008 he was stripped of the FEI Open endurance title and fined for doping, and he recently returned from a two-year endurance ban imposed in 2011, during which time he was able to train racehorses. Bin Shafya has trained racehorses for Sheikh Mohammed, including Gladiatus and Eastern Anthem, surprise winners on Dubai World Cup night in 2009.

Related Articles

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- [Godolphin will take time](#) 28 Apr 2013

Some horses have tested positive more than once. The tribunal was so worried about Lienka, an older mare at Al Aasfa that tested positive to stanozolol, it suspended her for 24 months for her own protection, citing Bin Shafya's inability to "unequivocally explain the occurrence of the 2009 and 2010 anti-doping cases of horses in their care".

Sheikh Mohammed's brother Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid, owner of the influential Shadwell Thoroughbred racing operation, owns the SAS endurance stables in Dubai whose trainer Ali Mohammed Al Muhairi, is serving four years, the sport's longest ban, for his second offence.

Endurance is a sport in which Sheikh Mohammed can excel as a rider, not just an owner. He is the world champion, and his son Sheikh Hamdan – also suspended in 2009 – joined him on the United Arab Emirates gold-winning team last August at the UK's premier venue, Euston Park in Norfolk.

The Maktoums own some 700 endurance horses and are pivotal to a sport which is alarming FEI vets and officials throughout the Middle East.

Since January 2010, 41 endurance horses worldwide have tested positive. Minor and first-time offences are merely punished with a fine under a fast-track procedure, but more than 80 per cent of cases serious enough for tribunal involved FEI Group VII countries: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Jordan, UAE and Qatar. UAE personnel received seven of the 13 eventual bans.

Many FEI vets and officials have tried to educate from within but now the influential Swiss, Belgian and French equestrian federations are lobbying for more drastic solutions. The Swiss say the “negative evolution” is so unacceptable a breakaway administration should be considered.

Welfare issues at the much faster endurance “desert rides” in Gulf countries have already forced the FEI to amend veterinary procedures several times.

Historically, in FEI sports such as show jumping, dressage and eventing, the competition rider is the trainer/stable manager, and so the rider is sanctioned for doping violations. But in the Middle East, endurance revolves round professional training stables. Riders – sheikhs alongside jobbing jockeys from Bangladesh and Pakistan – only meet their horse at the competition, and invariably claim they could not know it was doped.

Archived reports show the tribunal's increasing frustration that the wrong people were being punished and from 2010 it was empowered to join support personnel in sanctions. Ali Salman Al Sabri of the Maktoums' Emaar stables was banned for 16 months as a trainer of four horses testing positive for an anabolic steroid 17-alpha hydroxyprogesterone hexanoate.

In April 2009, Sheikh Mohammed immediately suspended himself upon learning his horse Tahhan had tested positive, though he arguably appeared unable to keep up the spirit of a ban.

In August 2009, the Dubai Equestrian Club funded a 120km private competition billed as 'Ride with the Stars' at Euston Park with prize money of £175,000, despite criticism from Endurance GB. Sheikh Mohammed and three other suspended riders – Sheikh Hamdan Jnr, Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem and Abdullah Thani bin Huzaim – took part. At the time, Ian Williams, director of FEI non-Olympic sports, said: “It's a private get-together and there's nothing in our statutes to prevent that.”

From housewives to household names

Endurance racing involves rides of up to 160km, with horses subjected to regular veterinary checks along the route. The sport originally attracted one-horse amateurs: in 1990 four British housewives won world team gold, one of them riding a part-bred Exmoor pony costing a few hundred pounds.


But an appetite for endurance among emerging Arab federations meant unprecedented prize money, and a willingness to spend £150,000 buying a top horse from Europe, South Africa or South America, changed the culture, making it more professional and more demanding on the horses.

8.5.2013 – Horse & Hound

<http://www.horseandhound.co.uk/news/guilty-racehorse-trainers-endurance-links-put-spotlight-on-arab-doping-record/>

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Godolphin scandal throws spotlight on endurance

The steroids found in **Sheikh Mohammed's** racehorses last month shocked the world.

And now, the disgraced trainer, **Mahmood al Zarooni's** past links with endurance have come into focus.



This week, H&H investigates the doping record of Arab endurance nations — and finds that matters have got so bad, there are demands for the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) to clean up the sport.

To read the full story see today's issue of H&H (2 May 2013)

<http://www.horsesportinternational.com/2013/05/the-drug-plot-thickens/>

The Drug Plot Thickens

May 10, 2013

If you didn't see my post from last week, you might want to take a wander back [there](#) before reading today's, which is an update to the story I wrote about last week, a story that is getting weirder by the minute.

First of all, I'd like to give my weekly 'intrepid reporter' kudos to Pippa Cuckson, who has posted as a guest here before and is a regular contributor to the parent mag of this blog, Horse Sport International. Pippa wrote both of the stories I will refer to here today in my pathetic (and possibly fruitless) effort to make sense of WTF is going on in Sheikh/HRH/FEI land. And 'intrepid' is actually insufficient as a term for Pippa's forthrightness, since it takes more than an ounce of courage to stick one's neck out in such company.

At the curious hour of one minute before midnight on Tuesday, the Telegraph published an online [article](#) written by Pippa with the following headline: 'Endurance horses trained at Sheikh Mohammed's Dubai stables involved in doping scandal'. So it wasn't just that loony Zarooni who was giving out the roids to the ponies. Someone in the Endurance barn was delivering a little juice to the distance runners too.

And here's where it really goes sideways. If you are up to speed as per my advice above, HRH accepted her husband's invitation to become Chair of the Dubai Equestrian Club last week. Well, today, the British Endurance community is gobsmacked by the sudden [announcement](#) – in a single, sad sentence posted on the Euston Park website – that all four of its FEI sanctioned endurance races for 2013 have been cancelled. Now, just to get an idea of how thickly intertwined the British venue (and by extension, British endurance racing) is with the Ruler of Dubai, the logo features the Union Jack and Dubai's flag joined together by a rather ugly beige silhouette of an endurance rider and horse.

You don't have to be the sharpest knife in the drawer to make the very small hop to the conclusion that this sudden cancelling of all the races at Euston Park is connected to the latest public airing of many years of doping busts suffered by the Sheikh's endurance horses (it would not be an exaggeration to say that the Maktoum steeds have something of a drug habit). Read Pippa's other, even ballsier, [article](#) to understand just how this tale of doping woe has unraveled. Of course it's not news at all that the Sheikh's endurance horses have been caught red-hoofed on a routine basis, nor is this the first time I have scratched my head about the contradictory situation arising from the fact that the 'clean sport' FEI Prez is married to probably the single worst offender the FEI has ever had when it comes to doping. But if HRH had a rat's chance in hell of helping clean up the mess by taking over the Dubai Equestrian Club last week, that's up in smoke now. How can any of us think the Sheikh has any interest in changing his spots, given this latest development? It's equivalent to a law student, upon getting caught cheating on exams, dropping out of law school. Not really the way to prove your innocence, is it?

I wonder what the chats are like around FEI HQ's water cooler these days. I imagine there's quite a bit of whispering. Or the bedtime patter at a certain Royal household...

11.5.2013 – grandprix-replay.com

<http://www.grandprix-replay.com/content/plus-de-courses-dendurance-%C3%A0-euston-park>

► GÉNÉRAL

PLUS DE COURSES D'ENDURANCE À EUSTON PARK !

le 11/05/2013

À la suite du retrait de son principal sponsor émirati, Euston Park, terrain majeur de l'endurance britannique, vient d'annoncer l'annulation de l'ensemble des courses FEI de la saison 2013. Sur son site Internet, le Telegraph ose un rapprochement entre ces annulations et des récents articles de presse en Angleterre qui ont listé les exactions sportives des cavaliers du Golfe. L'endurance mondiale traverse actuellement une crise identitaire forte, comme le rappelle le journal britannique : plusieurs fédérations nationales demandent l'intervention ferme et impartiale de la FEI.

Euston Park, principal site d'endurance en Grande-Bretagne, vient d'annoncer sur son site internet l'annulation de l'ensemble des courses FEI de la saison 2013, à la suite du retrait de son sponsor, le Dubai Equestrian Club. Quatre CEI 3* sont ainsi concernées. La nouvelle est bien évidemment très mauvaise pour les cavaliers britanniques, qui, comme la majorité des cavaliers d'endurance européens, préparent les grands championnats à domicile, faute de pouvoir se rendre régulièrement à l'étranger, comme dans d'autres disciplines.

Cette nouvelle et ce retrait du sponsor pourraient bien être la conséquence directe des accusations de dopage qui ont récemment frappé le Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, souverain de Dubaï, et son écurie de courses Godolphin... mais également par le passé, dans le domaine de l'endurance. C'est en tout cas l'une des pistes qu'explore le Telegraph. Sur son site internet, le journal anglais a recensé, ces derniers jours, l'ensemble des affaires louches dans lesquelles aurait trainé le Sheikh : cas de dopage, sanctions, lancement d'un circuit parallèle pour échapper aux règles FEI, etc.

Pour l'heure, la division endurance de la fédération britannique se contente de rassurer ses cavaliers en précisant qu'elle fera tout pour trouver d'autres sites susceptibles d'accueillir rapidement des CEI 3* et leur demande, sur sa page Facebook, de ne pas extrapoler sur les raisons des annulations. "Trop d'oeufs dans un même panier", commente toutefois une internautes... Et l'article du Telegraph de conclure, quant à lui, par les préoccupations grandissantes de fédérations nationales européennes.

"Non-respect du bien-être animal et le de l'équité"

En France, fin 2012, plusieurs associations de cavaliers d'endurance ont en effet prié la FFE de faire part à la FEI de leurs inquiétudes quant à l'augmentation des irrégularités observées en course et du nombre de chevaux blessés. Quelques mois plus tard, la FEI, dans une lettre signée par Ian Williams, le directeur des disciplines non-olympiques, faisait part de son "espoir d'avoir trouvé les solutions largement avant les Jeux équestres mondiaux de Normandie".

En mars 2013, la Fédération suisse avait pris le relais des associations françaises, cette fois en des termes bien plus fermes : "Sans vouloir pointer du doigt la majorité des cavaliers et des officiels d'endurance, dont elle est consciente qu'ils font tout pour assurer bien-être à leurs montures et loyauté aux courses, la Fédération suisse des sports équestres ne peut plus accepter la forme que prend l'endurance actuelle, sous l'égide de la FEI. Les raisons sont doubles: le non-respect du bien-être animal et le non-respect de l'équité lors des compétitions. ... Dans ce contexte, nous vous informons qu'un mouvement international pourrait voir le jour pour les cavaliers, les entraîneurs et les officiels qui n'acceptent plus l'endurance telle que la tolère la FEI."

On n'a sans doute pas fini d'entendre parler de cette affaire.



Le Sheikh Mohammed Al Maktoum, ici lors des Jeux équestres mondiaux 2010, a été assez gravement mis en cause par la presse britannique, ces derniers jours. Photo Scoopdyga

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/horseracing/10047857/Major-blow-for-Endurance-GB-as-Dubai-Equestrian-Club-pulls-plug-on-Euston-Park-sponsorship.html>

The Telegraph

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Major blow for Endurance GB as Dubai Equestrian Club pulls plug on Euston Park sponsorship

Endurance riding in Great Britain has suffered a huge blow with the Dubai Equestrian Club pulling its blanket sponsorship of Euston Park, axing the Thetford venue's entire 2013 calendar.



Sport of Sheikhs: Sheikh Mohammed has financially supported Euston Park for several years Photo: AFP/GETTY IMAGES

By Pippa Cuckson

10:00PM BST 09 May 2013

5 Comments

The loss of four major race rides — to endurance riding, the equivalent of horse racing losing both Newmarket and Ascot — was announced in a single sentence on Euston Park's website, which effectively shut down on Wednesday. The national governing body, Endurance GB, has not been offered a reason.

The development follows a week of further publicity surrounding doping cases within Sheikh Mohammed's wider equine interests including *Telegraph Sport's* disclosure on Wednesday that some 20 horses trained in stables owned by the Maktoum family in Dubai had been involved in FEI doping cases since 2005.

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Telegraph Sport understands that prior to the revelations that led to Sheikh Mohammed's racehorse trainer, Mahmood Al Zarooni, being banned for eight years, Endurance GB was already resisting proposals for another "private ride" not under the rules of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI).

A similar concept was staged at Euston in August 2009 which enabled Sheikh Mohammed and three other riders, all then serving FEI suspensions, to compete. New FEI rules now prohibit riders competing in non-recognised competitions, across all of its seven equestrian disciplines.

Karen Collier, chairman of Endurance GB denied any such discussions had taken place. She said: "It is regrettable to lose four rides at this level but, if it is at all possible, we will endeavour to seek out opportunities to run an FEI ride elsewhere to compensate."

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"We have no knowledge of any unregulated rides and we have not received any information as to why sponsorship for Euston Park has been withdrawn."

Sheikh Mohammed, who owns 700 endurance horses, had underpinned Euston for years, and funded world championship events. Now, the near-halving of the UK's international calendar adds importance to the inaugural endurance race at Royal Windsor Horse Show on Friday.

Teams from the United Arab Emirates — expected to include Sheikh Mohammed's son Sheikh Hamdan, himself banned for six months in 2009 — and Bahrain go against a strong British contingent.

One of the horses in the UAE's nominated entries is Castlebar Kadeen, himself suspended by the FEI Tribunal for 12 months for his own welfare in October 2011 after testing positive to the steroid stanozolol.

At the time he was trained by Mubarak Bin Shafya, who also trains thoroughbred racehorses for Sheikh Mohammed.

Many British endurance riders are already looking for qualification for next year's World Equestrian Games, with opportunities now reduced unless they can afford to compete abroad. Surviving FEI rides are Bocconoc, Kings Forest, Seacliffe, Barbury Castle and The College.

The relatively high incidence of doping in Middle East endurance has been a major concern for FEI vets and officials and last month the influential Swiss equestrian federation called for drastic change, floating the possibility of a breakaway movement to save the reputation of the for fear the rest of the sport. The FEI has 120 member nations.

If Middle Eastern federations are excluded, endurance riding has a cleaner doping record than the Olympic discipline of show jumping worldwide.

Karen Collier added: "Endurance GB puts the welfare of the horse at the heart of our sport, with strict veterinary controls at all stages of our competitions.

"We are confident that the FEI will investigate the concerns expressed by national federations and act accordingly. As in all other equine disciplines, our elite athletic horses are carefully trained and prepared for the competitions they are entered into."

Kommentare zum Artikel:



NeetsHuman
Yesterday 08:24 AM

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[Report](#)

It seems to me that the FEI in total is a corrupt and ineffective Int Sports governing body.. just like the FIFA.. My view is that Int Governing bodies are intrinsically "transparency challenged". They are no better than big multinational companies. Both have financial drivers and in the case of Int Sports Governing bodies this clearly leads to conflicts of interest and corruption.



horsewatcher
05/10/2013 04:37 PM

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;) Pippa good story. Wonder what the length of sponsorship deals are for some of the big flat races like the Darley July Cup. Interesting to see what happens when the deals come to an end.



escort72
05/10/2013 05:19 PM

☒ Recommended by 1 person

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This has been said before but is well worth repeating.. Why is there a reluctance to cover this story in a proper way? Its a scandal that has massive consequences yet its getting the kind of coverage in the media that would make Robert Mugabe blush.



Maryanne Stroud Gabbani
05/10/2013 01:34 AM

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This is how Dubai controls the endurance racing world, with financial support and the threat of its withdrawal. His "generosity" to endurance racing has allowed this man to cheat his way from his first unearned FEI "win" in Egypt where he should have been disqualified from the start for wearing spurs, which are forbidden under FEI rules, to his "win" at Euston last year when he broke his own rule regarding proper dress by wearing a sweat shirt and cargo pants rather than the required collared shirt and riding pants...a minor faux pas, but one that would have gotten anyone else turfed out right away.

I hope that Endurance GB has what it takes to tell him where to put his races.



escort72
05/09/2013 05:39 PM

☒ Recommended by 1 person

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Is this a taste of things to come if sponsors who also compete are caught breaking the rules? For any sport to have integrity it needs to be clean, that means no performance enhancing drugs.

<http://www.eustonparkendurance.co.uk/default.aspx>



WELCOME TO EUSTON PARK ENDURANCE

FEI EGB CEI 3*, 2*, & 1* Euston Park

Events for 2013:

It is with much regret that the Organising Committee of the Euston Park Endurance Rides must announce the cancellation of the 2013 series of FEI rides.



[Site Map](#)

12.5.2013 – Facebook

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14.5.2013 – The Daily Telegraph

Sheikh Mohammed's son-in-law explains pressures that lead to doping in endurance racing

Endurance racing needed a smooth day out on Friday at Windsor, after the negative publicity that has surrounded it in recent days. The Queen attended, the United Arab Emirates took three of the first four places, and no positive tests were reported — for the moment at least.

Royal approval: Prince Nasser (left) at Windsor with the the Duchess of Cornwall, the Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen and the King of Bahrain

By Simon Briggs
6:45AM BST 14 May 2013

For those not familiar with this niche equestrian pursuit, an endurance ride involves a course of up to 100 miles long which must be completed by one rider on one horse. It is little wonder that the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) has identified it as a hotspot for chemical enhancement, with 41 cases of doctored horses reported between 2010 and 2012. Figures prepared by the Swiss Equestrian Federation suggest that the Middle Eastern states — which have come to dominate the sport since the 1990s — are at the heart of the problem. Horses from the UAE have repeatedly been cited — even one ridden by the Emir of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, himself. The connections between these mini-scandals and the rather larger debacle at Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin stables are not hard to draw. Sheikh Mohammed's son-in-law, Nasser Bin Hamad Al Khalifa, rode in Friday's race, although with limited success; his horse Moro Famayev went lame and had to retire after the first 20-mile lap. Speaking to The Daily Telegraph, Prince Nasser — whose father is the King of Bahrain — admitted that doping was a major problem in endurance racing, though he was wise enough to defend Sheikh Mohammed from any accusation of wrong-doing.

“What made this happen is like exactly the athletes in the human races, they want to beat the other runners and the other countries, and they start to miscalculate things,” said Prince Nasser. “We understand that this is a very long distance, that the horses need what helps them to run but it has to be legal, like electrolytes and sugar supplements. “We are going through a lot of studies because we want to be more strict,” he added. “In Bahrain, we have not had a lot of occasions of doping, and we are in regular touch with FEI. We send them all the results and they are at all the races.” So, what about the 15 Godolphin horses found to have been injected with steroids by their trainer Mahmood Al-Zarooni? Prince Nasser smiled enigmatically. “I am very confident how Sheikh Mohammed is wise, and how he can react to it,” he said. “For him, winning the Guineas last week is a big success. It proves that if one individual takes a wrong step it is not the whole policy of Sheikh Mohammed. It is just one individual and he needs to take charges against him and get over it. I was happy when I turned on the TV and saw Sheikh Mohammed walking around, confident and a winner.” Not everyone has enjoyed the rise of the Middle Eastern horsemen. Endurance racing used to be a homely, low-profile sport — so under-resourced, in fact, that the 1990 world team title was won by a group of four British housewives, one of them riding a part-bred Exmoor pony. When the Sheikhs arrived — and Sheikh Mohammed owns around 700 endurance horses — it was rather as if the McLaren F1 team had entered the local demolition derby. Many nations are unhappy about the resources and methods employed by the Gulf States, especially when the chemical subtext is added. There is even talk of setting up a breakaway organisation that would run races without any Middle Eastern representation. But then, as Prince Nasser points out, there is a good reason why endurance racing appeals to his family. “It is the closest sport to our tradition, to my culture, I am not talking about history I am talking about my grandfather — he used a horse and he used a camel to travel around my country.

“Endurance racing started before the Arab states. It was in America and then it came here to Europe and then to South Africa and then all the way to Australia. We have the same kind of horses as everybody else, because we buy them from overseas. The difference is the training and the amount of effort we put into the horses, we take them to the next level which no one has reached yet, which is that we treat them like athletes.

“As a rider, you have to be fit,” added Prince Nasser, who was a couple of years behind Prince Harry at Sandhurst, and recently recorded the impressive time of 2hr 20min in his first Olympic-distance triathlon.

“But you also need to be well-rounded, a good horseman. This is what is interesting about it:

sometimes I am riding a champion, sometimes I am riding a beginner.

“A lot of issues happen because once you reach a number, or a speed, everybody wants to keep close

to that or break it, and they think every horse can do it. But that’s not possible. So people are doping

just to keep in the group, whereas if it is a very good-quality horse, it can do it on its own. It has internal strength.”

Prince Nasser and his relations have become the establishment in this sport. Until last week, when The

Telegraph revealed the issues around Sheikh Mohammed’s endurance stables, the Dubai Equestrian

Club was supporting four annual races at Euston Park in Thetford.

Now that sponsorship has been pulled, leaving only the Bahrainis to support Windsor. There is plenty

more work to do if the equestrian world is to be convinced that endurance racing is clean.

<http://www.horseandhound.co.uk/news/endurance-steroids-scandal-deepens/>

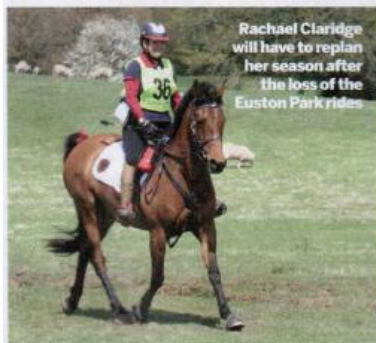
Endurance steroids scandal deepens

Dubai Equestrian Club axes its sponsorship of Britain's leading endurance series as the doping record in Sheikh Mohammed's stables is scrutinised further. And more national federations and a rider join the calls for change. *H&H's* news team reports

ALTHOUGH riders from the UAE won the inaugural FEI Windsor ride on Friday (10 May), Sheikh Mohammed otherwise had another uncomfortable week.

On Wednesday (8 May) came the shock announcement that Dubai Equestrian Club had withdrawn its sponsorship of this summer's FEI rides at Euston Park, Suffolk. The abrupt decision means the 2013 series there is cancelled.

With no official explanation, there is



Rachael Claridge will have to re-plan her season after the loss of the Euston Park rides

speculation Euston is the first casualty of unrelenting media interest in the steroids scandal. Could Sheikh Mohammed's lucrative sponsorship of racing suffer next?

A blow to British riders

THE loss of four Euston rides has hit British riders hard. Team prospect Rachael Claridge told *H&H*: "We were looking to start my horse's qualifications for next year's World Equestrian Games [WEG] there in June — now I can't qualify him without going abroad. I'm having to completely re-plan."

Remaining British FEI rides are Bocconoc, Kings Forest, Seacliffe, Barbury Castle and The College. Karen Collier, chairman of Endurance GB said: "It is regrettable to lose four rides at this level but, if it is at all possible, we will endeavour to seek out opportunities to run an FEI ride elsewhere to compensate."

Multiple doping offences

LAST week, disgraced trainer Mahmood al Zarooni unexpectedly announced his appeal against the length of his eight-year racing ban, after 11 racehorses at Sheikh Mohammed's elite Godolphin operation tested positive for anabolic steroids last month (news, 6 May).

Godolphin's racing manager Simon Crisford

'WE CAN'T COMPETE AGAINST DOPED HORSES'

ENDURANCE "is not a level playing field" because of doping by some Middle East countries, said British rider Christine Yeoman (right).



"The drugs they are putting in their horses I would not put in mine."

"I'm competitive, but it's not possible to compete against that," she told *H&H*.

"You're always going to be one step behind them [Middle Eastern nations]; they have the most amazing facilities — but at least if you knew they weren't using drugs you could compete. They will compromise their horses; we won't."

"The FEI seriously needs to clean it up," she added.

Mrs Yeoman challenged a positive test to her own horse in 2009 under the no fault-no negligence defence, after a supplement manufacturer admitted contamination.

"Having fought the FEI because I wanted my name cleared, to me endurance being a clean sport is really, really important," she said.



Riders compete at the World Championships at Euston Park in 2012: there will be no FEI rides there this year after the Dubai Equestrian Club withdrew its sponsorship

Sheikh Mohammed is the reigning world champion

HORSES BANNED 'TO PROTECT THEIR WELFARE'

FIVE horses trained in Dubai and competed by the UAE — Lienka, Betshouf, Little Joe Fox, Bebabeloula and Castlebar Kadeen — have been suspended for periods by the FEI due to welfare concerns.

Castlebar Kadeen was banned for 12 months in October 2011 "to preserve and protect" his welfare after testing positive for the steroid stanozolol. The trainer, Mubarak Bin Shafya, was banned for 24 months.

Lienka, also trained by Bin Shafya, was suspended for 24 months in 2010 to "preserve and protect its welfare" after testing positive for stanozolol.

Bebabeloula was banned for 12 months in 2009 due to the tribunal's concern that aged 15, he was no longer fit or capable of longer rides due to a historic joint problem.

But at 19, he was still starting 160km rides in February this year.

Little Joe Fox was suspended for 12 months in 2008, aged 15. He'd tested positive for an anti-inflammatory. The tribunal said it was "very reluctant to accept the fact that old horses are monitored and medicated to keep them competing at international level".

Betshouf was suspended for a year in 2011 after testing positive for stanozolol. The horse was trained by Bin Shafya, who was already suspended by the time of the FEI Tribunal hearing, over the case of Castlebar Kadeen.

Racing Trainer will appeal eight-year ban

DISGRACED Godolphin trainer Mahmood al Zarooni has lodged an appeal after being banned from racing for eight years for doping (news, 2 May).

His disqualification was announced following a disciplinary hearing on 25 April at the British Horseracing Authority's (BHA) headquarters in London.

He admitted he had made a "catastrophic error" and given banned anabolic steroids to 15 horses in his care.

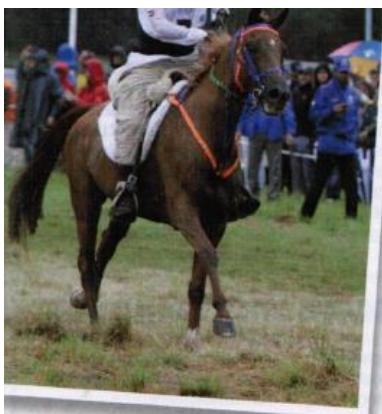
The appeal is against the "severity" of the penalty of an eight-year ban.

A date for the appeal hearing has not yet been set.

Driving Runaway carriage horses cause chaos



THE Duke of Edinburgh's carriage was clipped — and a showing class disrupted at Royal Windsor on Sunday (12 May) — by a pair of runaway carriage horses.



Calls for a breakaway movement

IN March, the Swiss equestrian federation lobbied the FEI for drastic action to curb the high level of doping within the Group VII nations — UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan and Bahrain (news, 2 May). If Group VII is excluded, endurance has a cleaner record than showjumping worldwide.

The FEI has now replied to the Swiss, but has no plans to publish the response.

It has also emerged that two other influential federations wrote to the FEI in late 2012 about increasing incidences of equine fractures in endurance. Belgium says it has reached "unimaginable proportions", while France — hosts of next year's World Equestrian Games — asks for action to "avoid any kind of welfare scandal during that major event".

The Swiss also proposed a breakaway movement, in order to distance the rest of the endurance sport from the offending region, or its temporary exclusion from international championships.

Ian Williams, FEI director of non-Olympic sports, said he was confident the FEI had taken "all necessary actions" to uphold horse welfare and it was "not concerned about a breakaway movement in this discipline".

Three nations have now felt compelled to write to the FEI because of the alarming statistics — is Britain likely to do so?

Andrew Finding, chief executive of the British Equestrian Federation (BEF), said he had not been asked to respond to the Swiss letter.

He added: "The BEF strongly supports the FEI stance on clean sports, so as to support the welfare of the horse as the utmost priority in all equine sport."

Prince Philip was not hurt, but the panicked Friesians then careered into the Copper Horse Arena, where the intermediate show hunter class was taking place.

Producer Katy Carter's partner Jason Lindley leapt over the fence and managed to stop the pair.

"He's been filming with Steve Dent [equestrian stunt specialist] and one of the things he learned was how to stop galloping horses," said Katy. "No one would have thought he'd be putting it into practice here!"

► Royal Windsor report starts on p24

Farewell to... Event rider Samantha Hunnabale

SAMANTHA HUNNABALE, the wife of former Olympic event rider Chris, died on 5 May after a 22-year battle with cancer. She was 50.

"She was the driving force for all the family's equestrian ambitions," said Mr Hunnabale, chairman of British Eventing's sports committee.

Sam produced several event horses to three-star level and a mare to grade A showjumping. She was still competing in February.

"She had an inexhaustible enthusiasm for competition," added Mr Hunnabale. "Even her illness didn't stop her. She lived life to the full."

The couple, who had been married 24 years, have two daughters, Lucy, 16, and Zara, 13.

was quick to distance the stable from al Zarooni's decision.

H&H has also established that more than 20 cases before the FEI tribunal since 2005 involved doped endurance horses from stables in Dubai that are owned by Sheikh Mohammed and other senior members of the Maktoum family.

The tribunal's repeated requests for these stables to improve management practices are recorded in online archives.

The two prominent manager-trainers banned under newer "support personnel" procedures were Mubarak Khalifa Bin Shafya (two years) and Ali Salman Al Sabri (16 months) — both now back in action — who were training out of Maktoum stables at the time.

17.5.2013 – endurance-belgium.com

<http://endurance-belgium.com/n-presse/presse.htm#hh>

Revue de presse - Press Review

17mai - Le sujet "Doping" continue de préoccuper la presse... Où est et que fait la FEI?

The British press to keep focusing on doping scandal

Horse and Hound keeps striking while the iron is hot. An article on the website of this famous equestrian magazine, but also another one on the -just-published- paper version.

The paper article takes the opportunity of the Windsor Endurance last week to come back to the doping scandal taking place in Newmarket. This concerned of course the flat-racing industry (and Godolphin owned by Sheikh Mohammed), but it didn't take long for the smart journalists to make the link with all doping offenses involving UAE (and other riders from Group 7) in endurance.

H&H interviewed Christine Yeoman who is obviously fed up to fight against doped horses : *"We will always run behind them as they have the best facilities, the best horses and no problem to compromise their horses". Adding : "FEI needs to clean it up".*

The article lists the horses failing doping control and questions the reason why these -some were aged- horses were doped.

Coming back to the Swiss Federation's letter, H&H comments about the "necessary breakaway of the Group 7". That means clearly that the Swiss Federation asked for excluding Group 7 endurance from any FEI sanctioning, under further notice of improvement. Well, that's what's happening for example if a stable has an episode of epidemy, it is closed and put in quarantine and a safety perimeter is drawn all around...

FEI replies - Mr. De Vos, Belgian, Secretary General- that *"... a reply has been sent to the Swiss Federation"*. And Ian Williams to say *"he is confident that FEI had taken all necessary action"*. Is this a Monty Python movie or the last Belgian joke?

"Endurance racing needed a smooth day out on Friday at Windsor, after the negative publicity that has surrounded it in recent days. The Queen attended, the United Arab Emirates took three of the first four places, and no positive tests were reported — for the moment at least."

For our part, we interviewed Pierre Arnould who is a member of the endurance committee at the FEI. He said that the committee has been working since a long time to warn the FEI about what's happening now. Notes were sent to all FEI officials and Vets to warn them about the strict enforcement of the regulation. *"Yeah... As long as officials and vets keep their eyes shut and don't report about what's going in Group 7 events, what can we do?" he said. "The Belgian Federation was the first to write to the FEI, asking for action. The French and the Swiss followed, the Swiss letter being the most direct. I remember, and I think it is on the minutes, asking for a disconnection of Group 7 endurance from FEI sanctioning"*.

The Belgian Chef d'Equipe to conclude on a more politically-correct way : *"I cannot imagine Sheikh Mohammed not reacting and firing who's not clean among his trainers. He is a leader and a visionary, he cares a lot for the image of his country. He will react!"*

21.5.2013 – St. Georg

<http://www.st-georg.de/news/detail.php?class=6&objectID=14512>

18 Godolphin-Rennpferde mit positiver Dopingprobe

Harte Zeiten für den Rennstall Godolphin von Scheich Mohammad al Maktoum, dem Ehemann der FEI-Präsidentin Prinzessin Haya. Nachdem die British Horseracing Authority (BHA) Ende April seinen Trainer wegen elf positiv gesteter Pferde mit einer Acht-Jahres-Sperre belegt hatte, wurden nun bei sieben weiteren Pferden verbotene Substanzen gefunden.

Unter diesen sieben jetzt positiv getesteten Pferden befand sich auch der Sieger des St. Leger 2012, Encke. Alle Pferde wurden bis vor kurzem noch von Mahmood al Zarooni trainiert. Der hatte jüngst Einspruch eingelegt gegen das Urteil der BHA, die ihn angesichts elf bereits zuvor mit anabolen Steroiden erwischten Pferden mit einer Sperre von acht Jahren belegt hatte. Die Geschichte war bei Trainingskontrollen aufgefliegen. Zarooni hatte zugegeben, "einen katastrophalen Fehler" gemacht zu haben. Er hatte die verbotenen Substanzen aus Dubai nach England gebracht. In Dubai, der Heimat von Godolphin-Besitzer Scheich Maktoum, sind die Substanzen im Training erlaubt, solange das Pferd am Tag des Rennens "clean" ist.

Scheich Mohammad al Maktoum wird von [Horse & Hound](#) damit zitiert, dass er "betroffen und erbost gewesen sei, als er erfahren hat, dass einer seiner Ställe die ethischen Standards von Godolphin und die Regeln von British racing verletzt hat".

Die BHA hatte nach der Geschichte alle Pferde getestet, die Mahmood al Zarooni anvertraut gewesen waren. Dabei wurden dann die sieben weiteren Pferde entdeckt, die verbotene Substanzen im Körper hatten. Die Pferde eines anderen Godolphin-Trainers, Saeed bin Suroor, waren hingegen alle "clean". Quelle: [Horse & Hound](#)

Das Maktoum-Dopingdebakel betrifft nicht nur Rennpferde. Ebenfalls bzw. gerade sind Distanzpferde betroffen. Scheich al Maktoum hat derweil die Sponsorengelder für den Distanzritt in Euston Park (GBR) gestrichen. **Mehr zu dem Dopingskandal lesen Sie im nächsten St.GEORG.**

21.5.2013 – The Chronicle of the Horse

<http://www.chronofhorse.com/article/doping-scandal-rocks-middle-east-endurance>

May 21, 2013

Doping Scandal Rocks Middle East Endurance

By: Staff



Prominent European federations are pressuring the Fédération Equestre Internationale to “clean up” endurance riding in the Middle East. Photo by Lisa Slade.

and last week made further written demands.

PRINT SHARE

Prominent European federations are pressuring the Fédération Equestre Internationale to “clean up” endurance riding in the Middle East, citing the high incidence of doping and equine fractures in the area.

The Swiss Equestrian Federation is currently in strong correspondence with the FEI—some of which has leaked onto the web—saying the “negative evolution” of endurance is so unacceptable a breakaway sport should be considered. Belgian officials have complained about “unimaginable proportions” of leg injuries, and the French are asking for a clean-up before the 2014 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games in their country to avoid “a welfare scandal at a major event.”

And while the FEI is understood to have already taken stronger action, including directly appointing some of the officials at rides in the United Arab Emirates from the start of their next winter season, the Swiss remain dissatisfied with the FEI response

Swiss Federation President Charles Trollet produced graphs using data from the FEI Tribunal website to illustrate that from January 2010 to December 2012, 41 endurance horses globally tested positive, and more than 80 percent of the eventual cases before the FEI Tribunal came from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Jordan and Qatar, all in FEI Group VII. Thirteen people from Group VII were suspended, seven of them UAE.

If Group VII countries are excluded, endurance worldwide has a cleaner doping record than show jumping.

Trollet said: "We abstain from listing the multitude of witnessed and documented cruelties to horses, including shocking veterinarian reports concerning health issues, tremendous fracture frequencies and dangerous treatment protocols, speed-inducing changes in topography of the competitions, as well as cheating actions before and during the endurance races, in parallel with the non-taking of responsibility of certain officials and FEI staff."

All this makes uncomfortable reading for Princess Haya, FEI President. Doping linked to the employees of her husband and his family comprise a notable proportion of the positive tests across the Middle East flagged by the Swiss.

The FEI replied two weeks ago, but a spokesman said they had no plans to publish the reply.

By chance, equestrian concerns have come into the wider domain at the same time as intensive U.K. media scrutiny of world endurance champion Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin horseracing operation in Newmarket. Last month 11 horses tested positive for steroids during a spot check by the British Horseracing Authority and led to trainer Mahmood Al Zarooni being banned for eight years.

Al Zarooni then admitted to giving steroids—banned in training as well as in racing in the United Kingdom—to four further horses. Since a lockdown by Sheikh Mohammed of the Al Zarooni barn, the BHA has detected steroids in seven extra horses, including Encke, who unexpectedly ended Camelot's live bid on the European Triple Crown by beating him in the St Leger last September.

The media have registered that Al Zarooni worked for a year under FEI offender Mubarak Bin Shafya, who has trained both race horses and endurance horses for the Maktoum family from Al Aasfa stables in Dubai in the UAE.