



ITALIA ENDURANCE FESTIVAL

PARCO DI PONTONCELLO 2014

The horse protagonist, Verona 10 to 27 July

GREAT EXCITEMENT AT THE H.H. SHEIKH MANSOOR BIN ZAYED AL NAHYAN CUP RACES

The CEIO and CEI competitions sponsored by Global Arabian Flat Racing Festival concluded yesterday evening with the awards ceremony. Adrenaline and excitement for all three categories.

This Sunday was distinguished by a warm summer sun and a sporting event that is sure to remain in many people's memories for a very long time. The CEIO and CEI races organized in collaboration with Global Arabian Flat Racing Festival and valid for the H.H. Sheikh Mansoor Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Cup have offered excitement, joy and a few little surprises.

CEI2*: SPECTACULAR ARRIVAL WITH A FINAL SPRINT

Firstly, as we said, after Saturday's heavy rain we finally saw the sunshine on Sunday. The CEI2* started before dawn, at 5:30, with 40 registered pairs of which 17 managed to complete the 126 km race.

This race was, to say the least, dominated by the United Arab Emirates, who placed seven athletes on the first ten positions. To win the gold medal was Al Jahouri Khalifa Ali Khalifan riding Vendeval, who finished the race in 5.48.51 at an average speed of 21,671 km/h after a very high in adrenaline final sprint to the finishing line which has seen other four athletes involved.

Just two seconds behind him, Al Khayari Saeed Homoud Saeed with Ostro di Chia won the silver, only one second away from the third, Al Maktoum SH Hasher Bin Modh Thani with Cal Colonial, and two seconds away from the fourth, namely Al Harbi Saeed Ahmad Jaber with Qristal Del Alpes.

Fifth Al Nuaimi Adnan Sultan riding Thiyya Du Mortier.

To break the UAE monopoly was the Spanish Alex Luque Moral with Arai Polvorillo who arrived eighth, ahead of the French Ludovic Saroul with Tarik Daragon and of the Italian Chiara Mantelli with Areca della Bosana, tenth.

CEI*JR: UAE MONOPOLY, WE ARE REALLY SORRY FOR CAMILLA COPPINI

The race dedicated to the junior athletes started, on the other hand, at 6:00 o'clock. Nine out of the fourteen pairs that registered in the race managed to cross the finish line. Here, too, the United Arab Emirates dominated the race, winning the first four places on the podium. Young Al Mazrooei Mohd Matar Rashed with Khedji arrived solo, completing the 126 km race in 6.11.27 at an average speed of 20,353 km/h.

Al Muhairi Mohd ali with Fair Plex and Al Ali ali Ghanim Obaid with Shakim reached the destination almost a minute later. The two riders, with only one second between them on the arrival timeline, gave birth to an exciting final head-to-head. Great satisfaction for the Italian Giulia Galatino with Grigali who arrived fifth, before the small group of Italians who occupied the remaining four positions in the rankings and for Daniele Seriola who won the Best condition.

A special mention deserves Camilla Coppini, the daughter of the Event director of Italia Endurance Festival. The young sixteen-year-old, in her first 120 km race, did just fine together with the small group of UAE riders, finishing fourth the last but one loop with good chances of grabbing a place on the podium during the final tour. Despite having passed the veterinary visits, Camilla, in agreement with her staff, decided to let her Ares rest, as he looked tired and fatigued after a flawless performance up to that moment.

CEI1 *: THE SURPRISE IS CALLED ANNELIE ERIKSSON

Many have wondered: is this true? A Swedish on the top step of the podium? And, to quote the famous title *La Gazzetta dello Sport* [t.n. popular Italian sports newspaper] used on occasion of Italy's victory in the Football World Cup 2006, "It's all true"! Annelie Eriksson, with her Italian Penelope del Ma, interrupted the absolute domination of the pairs from the United Arab Emirates in the other two categories, winning the 83 km CEI1* race in 3.53.08 at an average speed of 21,361.

The Nordic athlete finished twenty seconds ahead of Al Kitbi Salem Hamad Saed Malhoof with Orodemattaepadru and eight minutes of the third, Ibrahim Ismail Mohd Al Hosani with Boa Queda TB, both from the United Arab Emirates.

A race that saw 39 pairs at the start, set for 6:30, of which 31 crossed the finish line. The sixth, seventh and eighth places were all occupied by Italians, Daniel Braido, Corrado Tiziano and Giorgia Trombetti who also brought home the Best condition.

The awards ceremony with prizes and trophies given by the sponsors and partners of Italia Endurance Festival took place in the evening. On this occasion, medals were also given to the winners of the H.H. Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Endurance Cup, both for the individual race won by Al Suwaidi Afra Khalifa with Rivergum Drifter, and for the team title won by the United Arab Emirates followed by Bahrain and Italy.

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